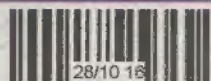


SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

GRELLA WANTS ROO SPOT-PERMANENTLY



Vince Grella: The tough midfielder is leading the way for Australians in the Serie A with side Empoli.

By Mark Stavroulakis

Australian International and current Empoli Serie A star Vince Grella has stated that he wants a start in the Socceroo squad.

The 24-year-old defensive midfielder has been rather impressive in Empoli's squad this season even though the club has hit some rough times currently lying in second last position.

Empoli fired coach Daniele Baldini after a winless start to the season last week.

The Tuscan team hired Attilio Perotti, whose experience is largely with Serie B squads. The 57-year-old's only top-flight soccer came in 2000-01, leading Verona.

Having been capped by the Socceroos initially in a friendly match against the English in that memorable three-one win last February, Grella has yet to see a starting spot in Frank Farina's side. The former Carlton ace was not used in their final friendly against the Jamaicans and felt as though he'd done enough to get some game time. Considering the ex-AIS graduate has been a necessity for Empoli, it has been rather strange as to why a position has yet to be given to him by Farina.

"I'd really like Frank to view as many matches as possible with my club via grabbing the video tapes if he needs to look at how I am performing", said Grella.

Considering Farina is the full-time Socceroo coach, video analysis from any player from the squad could easily be at his fingertips — but should already be used as an easier tactic to keep a track on fellow Roo players.

Known for performing the so-called 'dirty work' for the midfield at Empoli, Grella's terrific performances have earned the respect by many fellow Serie A clubs, one being Italian Giants AC Milan.

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BAGGIO TO OZ?



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OLYMPIAKOS LOOK TO AUSTRALIAN LINK-UP



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BOSNICH BID UNLIKELY

By Richard Kreider

Talk of Chelsea's former troubled goalkeeper Mark Bosnich participating in a West Australian Representative side which is scheduled to play the Iraqi national team in Perth next month as part of a ten-day 'World Peace Game' tour is unlikely to go ahead because of Federal Government interests.

The 31-year old ex-Socceroo shot-stopper has been in exile since his sacking from the English Premier League club for an alleged cocaine-related misdemeanour late last year. Billed as more than just a soccer related Tour involving the battle-ravaged nation, this extraordinary innovation was engineered by the Western Australian Sports Centre Trust which received a \$50,000 blessing from the Federal Government. However, it is believed the grant will be withdrawn should Bosnich take part.

Former Australian identities including current national coach Frank Farina and ex-Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United midfielder Robbie Slater have all been linked to the game, including two representatives from the government-run Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, as a direct request by the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard.

The coach of the Iraqi side is former East German national team boss Bernd Stange, who previously led Australia's National Soccer League side Perth Glory from 1998-2001. The country, which is ranked 62, is currently in the process of qualifying for the Asian Cup to be held in China in July 2004.

Stange had quit Iraq before the start of the war, just three months after his appointment, and returned to rebuild his team once hostilities ended. For Stange, it's a case of: "We now face forging a sense of community, personal change and unity realised in actions (which for me is sport) not just echoed constantly in words."

He is looking forward to returning to Perth to showcase his team and to promote the reconstruction process, which has begun in Iraq.

"There are currently no facilities to play sport in Iraq and any assistance from coun-



Mark Bosnich's comeback to football might not eventuate in WA.

tries such as Australia in the rebuilding process is greatly appreciated," Stange said.

The Iraqi team arrive in Perth on Friday November 14 and will play the Representative side at Arena Joondalup two days later.

Proceeds from the game and other fundraising activities, including another exhibition game against the WA State side in the southern city of Albany, will go the Trust, which has Stange as Patron.

WA STATE TEAM:

Robbie Slater	Neil Young
Cory Hugo	Alan Dunlop
Craig Surtees	Jamie Kuzmanovich
Shaun Kilkelly	Aaron Cole
Adrian Sutton	Leon Russell
Jeff Bright	Darren Broxton
Dale McCulloch	Keith Brown
Adam Bunce	Todd Howarth
Scott Bulloch	Glen Thomas
Daniel Trim	Simon Harland
Shane Crampton	Andrew Mason
Anthony Jones	Andreas Oliveira
Kevin Coreira	John Higgins

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SBS' Andrew Orsatti speaks to 'ABSW' Page 13

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Plus match reports and statistics on ALL of ROUND 6's National League matches on Pages 6-7-8-15 and 18



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Champions Grand-
Finals on page 26

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Analysis, including BONNYRIGG, CANTERBURY-
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Ruud van Nistelrooy

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aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIW

Livingston skipper Stuart Lovell has dedicated their win over Hibernian last week to departed head coach Marcio Maximo.

The Brazilian walked out on the West Lothian club earlier that week, citing personal reasons for his decision to return to his homeland after a short spell in charge at the City Stadium.

Livingston responded well, despite the midweek disruption and uncertainty, and handed caretaker Dave Hay three points from his first game in charge after Derek Lilley grabbed a double.

But Lovell claims the win should be seen as a farewell gift to Maximo. He said: "It has been a strange week with Marcio leaving and we knew that we had a point to prove and had to get the job done." He continued: "One of the last things Marcio said to us was to get the win this weekend so that he had something to celebrate - so hopefully he is watching from afar. We were really taken aback by Marcio's departure and no one saw it coming."

"What happened was out of the players' control and we are happy that Dave is a familiar face to us."

in signing him, but hopefully it will be one that will pay off."

◆◆◆◆

While in Scotland, Hearts' Patrick Kisnorbo revealed how his Parkhead dream turned into a nightmare as the Jambos crashed 5-0 to League leaders Celtic.

The former South star fulfilled a lifetime's ambition when he ran out in front of a packed Celtic Park but the occasion quickly turned sour for the Gorgie defender as the home side romped to an emphatic victory.



Patrick Kisnorbo: In action for Hearts against Scottish giants Celtic.

Patrick Thistle boss Gerry Collins was impressed by the debut of new signing Adrian Madaschi in the Jags' 3-2 under-21 win over Dundee.

The 21-year-old Australian has moved to Firhill from Italian side Atalanta and made an immediate impact in front of the watching Collins.

He told the club's official website: "I thought the big guy did great and, without getting carried away, he made a very efficient debut in his first game for the club."

"He looks comfortable on the ball, he is prepared to pass the ball, he is not a bad header of the ball and he reads the game quite well."

"I said we had taken a gamble

"Before the weekend I had only ever seen games at Parkhead on the television back home in Australia," he told sport.scotsman.com

"It is the best stadium I have ever played in and was a dream come true for me to line up against Celtic."

"Unfortunately it turned into something of a nightmare with us losing 5-0."

"We didn't play well but it is important that we can take what we can from the match when we go over the video analysis."

However Kisnorbo was quick to refute claims saying the midweek UEFA cup-tie against Zvezdarnik had anything to do with the side's lacklustre performance.

"We may be in Europe but we can't use that as an excuse," he said. "The best teams in the world can play two or three games in a week and still get results."

"The fact is we came off a good result in midweek in Europe and should have done better."

"It can be a mental thing as much as physical and it is something which we will have to look at for the next time we face a similar schedule."

"We didn't play well and hopefully we can put it down to one of those afternoons, a bad day at the office."

"But I certainly got a huge buzz from being up against the likes of players of the calibre of Henrik Larsson and John Hartson and hopefully the experience will help make me a better player," he ended.

◆◆◆◆

Across the border meanwhile Manchester City's Danny Tiatto has admitted he may return to Australia if he fails to land a new deal at Manchester City this season.

Tiatto, who arrived at City back in 1997, is out of contract at the end of the current campaign and



Danny Tiatto: May return to Australia if he fails to win a new contract with Manchester City.

talks have yet to begin over new terms.

The Australian international produced an impressive display after coming off the bench during the weekend win over Bolton, setting up Nicolas Anelka's second goal in the 6-2 rout.

But Tiatto admits that a return to his first club Melbourne Knights could appeal if Kevin Keegan fails to come up with a new deal for the midfielder.

Tiatto said: "Ideally I would love to finish my career at Manchester City, but you never know what will happen when I pack it in over here."

"It would be nice to play for my old team again at some point. A few of my old team-mates, such as Mark Viduka, are now playing in Europe, but it would be great if we could all link up again towards the end of our careers."

◆◆◆◆

Socceroos custodian Mark Schwarzer has revealed his ambition of ending his career in the Premiership with Middlesbrough.

The 31-year-old has just eight



STOP PRESS: Baggio Linked With Stallions?

Tribalfootball reports that Marconi are chasing Brescia striker Roberto Baggio. According to Italian media reports, Marconi have made it known through intermediaries that they're serious about bringing the Italian superstar to Sydney next year. Marconi have been able to get close to Baggio thanks to sponsors Kappa, which also are heavily involved with Brescia. Its suggested this isn't the first time Marconi have moved for Baggio, but the current bid for the ex-Juventus and AC Milan star is rated the Aussie club's best of bringing the veteran to Australia.

Purely speculation at this stage, Baggio is still a machine in terms of scoring with his name hoisted almost every week on the Brescia line-up.

Having brushed aside his bad memory of the '94 World Cup in the U.S. when he missed a penalty that gifted the Brazilians the World Cup, Baggio has gone through a huge transition.

Being a Buddhist, Baggio has changed for the better.

Northern Spirit had the chance to snap up an Italian star during its first season in the NSL when former Italian international Nicola Berti signed on.

The former Inter striker failed to make an impression in the league and the signing was regarded as one of the most under-rated ones in the history of the NSL considering his experience at top-flight football.

Marconi has kicked off the new NSL season superbly under rookie coach Jean-Paul de Marigny and powerbrokers are working behind the scenes to make sure they are included in any proposed new Australian Premier League competition.



Roberto Baggio has been targeted by the Marconi Stallions for next season.



Grella story continued

Grella's boyhood pal Marco Bresciano made the move from Empoli to Parma a few seasons ago for a huge fee of \$20 million grabbing all the headlines from the recent run of form from the number 13 who has enjoyed his time at the club.

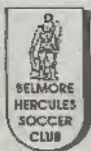
"I honestly have been really happy at Empoli. The club has been really good to me and I've established myself firmly into the squad's starting eleven. My main aim is to play consistently for the club and grab the attention of Frank who will hopefully use me more often in the Socceroo squad."

Hailing from Melbourne's Springvale, the dizzy heights of the Serie A have not dampened his down-to earth attitude.

Having his own family with two girls (twins), it hasn't been all smooth sailing for Grella.

"To get where I've got, I put in a lot of hard work and effort. Patience is the key in playing overseas, especially in Italy, you need a lot of it."

Australian soccer has benefited greatly from the likes of Grella and Bresciano as the pair have earned a great deal of respect from players, coaches and the highly critical Italian media.



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BELMORE HERCULES SOCCER CLUB
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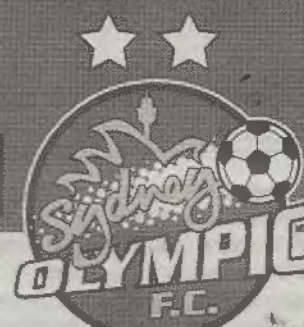
Newly formed Sydney University Eastern Lions are
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and preferred age group, marked
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The Secretary
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PO Box 107
Kingsford, 2032
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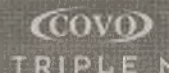
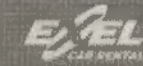
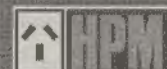
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SUMMER SOCCER BACK ON IN QLD

By Glenn Davis

Queensland soccer will stage an Under 21 youth summer league this season.

Brisbane Mens Soccer, who will control the competition, made the announcement at a media gathering with clubs on Monday evening.

Brisbane Mens Soccer general manager, Bruce Dinsdale, said the focus of the competition was on development of youth players.

"We feel that it is important to encourage these local soccer players who aspire to play at higher levels by providing such competitions," Dinsdale said.

"We believe that such competitions generally lead to an environment which encourages and attracts people to the game of soccer."

The Summer Youth League comprises of twelve clubs and regions each enjoying a high profile within their soccer community and the local community to which they belong.

Participating Clubs will be pooled into two groups who will then play a ten-week competition on a home and away basis, starting from November 1 until the end of January.

The leading team at the end of the home and away

rounds in each group will then participate in a final Championship match.

All matches will be played on Saturday nights at 7pm.

The competition also sees the introduction of unlimited interchange as a trial and will also focus on encouraging fair play through the presentation of a Fair Play Award to the team with the best disciplinary record.

"Our aim is to provide a competitive competition for the young players to develop their skills while offering local soccer enthusiasts and supporters the opportunity to watch 'quality soccer in their own backyard,'" Dinsdale said.

The twelve clubs are:

Group 1:
Rochdale Rovers
South West Qld
Palm Beach Sharks
Queensland Lions
Redlands United
North Coast Suns (Lismore)

Group 2:
East Tigers
Peninsula Power
Dolphins
Wynnum Wolves
Pine Rivers United
North Star
Sunshine Coast Hawks



EAGLES SET TO SOAR

When Manchester United first established a youth development partnership with Parramatta Eagles in 2001 the vision of creating a unique pathway and training environment was forged.

Going into its third year, the Parramatta Eagles Soccer Academy has now reached a milestone with a national affiliate network in place and a new structure in Sydney.

The program aims to deliver a professional development program for young players adopting national standards through shared Manchester United curriculum and operational practices. The Academy based at Melita Stadium provides a unique year round development program for potential elite players under the eye of former National Coach, Raul Blanco.

One of the icons of Australian Soccer over the past twenty years, Blanco has embraced the challenge of developing young professionals, taking up a two-year full time position as Football Director. He believes the Academy is well positioned to provide an excellent education for the players. As well as expert technical coaching, the players will receive sports science, mental skills training and nutritional support from dedicated professionals.

Academy Director, Tony Walmsley brings a wealth of experience from several key roles in various states and, having recently returned from a month at the Manchester United Academy, is well positioned to deliver curricula and in-service to the affiliates. He states, "We do have advantages with the capacity to employ full-time staff, and to share curricula and methodology from one of the world's premier clubs. With this comes a lot of responsibility and 2004 is a key year for us."



Raul Blanco has become Parramatta Eagles' new football director.

Affiliate Clubs		
WA - Perth Kings	VIC - Green Gully	QLD - Capalaba
SA - Cumberland	ACT - Canberra Deakin	

Academy Director, Tony Walmsley brings a wealth of experience from several key roles in various states and, having recently returned from a month at the Manchester United Academy, is well positioned to deliver curricula and in-service to the affiliates. He states, "We do have advantages with the capacity to employ full-time staff, and to share curricula and methodology from one of the world's premier clubs. With this comes a lot of responsibility and 2004 is a key year for us."

Academy Chairman, Don Allan is excited about 2004. "The structure is in place now to help players develop to their full potential. In Sydney, we have implemented an accelerated development program for our Academy graduates which will see

them gaining Parramatta Eagles first team experience at a very young age before going on to National League or overseas playing contracts."

In 2003 the Eagles had eight (8) state representatives and three (3) standby players, while hopes are that this will increase over time as a measure of the level of development within the organization.

The extension of the Academy to younger, pre-academy development squads (8 to 12 year olds), will also serve to provide an exciting stepping stone to elite football talent before potentially entering full Academy teams.

The Pre-Academy squads will utilize the Manchester United youth development curriculum under the guidance of highly qualified Academy coaching staff.

Houllier For Australia?

The Australian Soccer Association have held talks with Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier about becoming the country's new technical director.

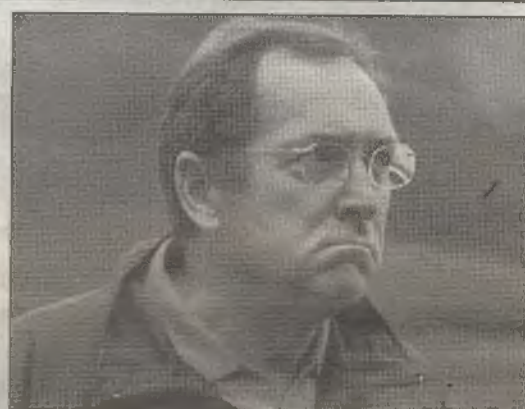
ASA chairman Frank Lowy, of Westfields, has made the appointment of a high-profile technical director a priority with Australia's

current coaching system being battered by local criticism.

The Sydney Morning Herald says Houllier met ASA officials while the Socceroos were in England early last month. A rival for the job, Ron Smith, is believed to have accepted a job offer with Singapore Armed Forces in the S-

League. Smith, former football chief with Malaysia, has been working with Houllier at Anfield this last month.

The Liverpool boss also enjoys a good relationship with Australia coach Frank Farina, having worked with the former Notts County and Bari striker as part of FIFA's technical committee in the past.



Gerard Houllier has held talks with ASA over a possible technical director role for Australia.

Doumanis Vows To Fight Rush of Blood



Sydney United's exciting young midfielder Anthony Doumanis has vowed to control his temper.

By Jude Ogbonnaya

Suspended Sydney United gifted player. Anthony Doumanis two-weeks ago watched helplessly from the sidelines as Parramatta Power overwhelmed his team 2-0 at Edensor Park and vowed afterwards: I will henceforth fight rush of blood.

Doumanis whose attacking flair has always saved United at troubled moments was given the matching orders two weeks ago against Olympic Sharks at OKI Jubilee Oval.

He admitted: "I did not help my cause and the referee didn't help me either."

"I deserved my punishment and I regret my action. It was a rush of blood that I have to fight from now on. It was the first time I was suspended since I started my Soccer career."

"Definitely, I'm going to learn from my mistake. I threw the ball away in annoyance to protest the referee's decision and he gave me the second yellow card."

Regretably, the 21 year old Doumanis who scored three goals last season for United got the red card against Olympic where he played for four years further pledged: "I will be more disciplined. It was really frustrating missing this game."

Sydney United Coach Grant Lee lamented the absence of his attacking midfielder thus: "It was a shame he was sent off in that game. We missed him. Doumanis is a very good player who could have helped us in this match."

Colosimo Hailed As The King!

By Jude Ogbonnaya

Harry Kewell may be the best Australian to kick the round-leather game; the Marconi Stallion Coach Jean-Paul De Marigny has crowned the Parramatta Power midfielder generalissimo Simon Colosimo as the king of the National Soccer League.

"He's the best player in the NSL," De Marigny who is dubbed JP by his admirers said.

"Colosimo has got great technique. He's a great passer of the ball with too much ability. He's tremendously talented and his vision is just much."

The former Marconi Stallions player also paid glowing tribute to his midfielder Nick Carle who he ranked second.

"Nick is a very nice player. He has a great desire to succeed as an individual, and works very hard to contribute as a group. He is trickier than Colosimo. He is also a good dribbler, good passer of the ball and a goal scorer."

"But Simon Colosimo is a different player completely. There are also some up coming players at the moment like Alex Brosque."

Coach Marigny who was also the former Coaching Director NSWIS told



Simon Colosimo has been hailed as one of the best players in the National League.

ABSW: "I'm very comfortable with the present bunch of players in my team to win the League and so far I have enjoyed working with them and my club Management."

According to him: "We have worked extremely hard to get them together and we have also put in a lot of work since June. I believe that we will reap the fruit of our labour at the end of the season."

"As a football Coach, you will always seek for ways of improving your team. We are trying to get Cameroonian Simon Bell play for us. So far, I have enjoyed my first year as a Chief Coach. It has been a good start and my boys have a good will to succeed. We are helping them to believe in themselves and the response is tremendous."

"For the game to really progress in Australia, we have to improve on our Coaching ability. Most of the Coaches in this country should spend more time in Europe widening their knowledge of the game and information, which I think are priceless."

"Success is a procedure. My success at the moment is the benefit of all I have done in the past. I've done my apprenticeship, picking up a lot of knowledge from all over the World in the course of my travels."



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SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS FOR THE 2004 SEASON

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winners of the NSW Soccer Federation Fair
Play Award 2002.

TRIAL DATES ARE LISTED BELOW
At Hammondville Oval, Hammondville
For Under 20's and First Grade Commencing at
7.00pm on

Tuesday 4th Nov. Thursday 6th Nov 2003
Tuesday 11th Nov. Thursday 13th Nov 2003

All players should present themselves at least 30min
prior to commencement of trial times.

As these are Representative Trials all players are
requested to present themselves accordingly.
Head Coach for 2004 season is former National team
player Paul Carter.

Goalkeeper coach is former State keeper Ron Gisborne.

Further enquiries should be directed to
Fred Schuyt 0418 411 198



Nepean District Soccer Football Association Inc.

Men's State League Trials

U20's: 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November
1st Grade: 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Wednesday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November

Women's Super League Trials

U/21's and 1st Grades:
Sunday 2nd 9th November at 3.00pm
Tuesday 4th and 11th November
at 7.00pm

All trials held at
Cook Park, Wilson Street,
ST MARYS

Enquiries:

Men: David Hubbard Mobile: 0418 613 758
Women: Don Gomez Mobile: 0410 590 219

SUTHERLAND
SHIRE
SHARKS



SUPER LEAGUE Trials Season 2004

November 2003
First Grade

Monday 3rd November 6.30pm sharp
Trials continue every Monday and Wednesday until
26th November 2003

Under 20's:

Tuesday 4th November 6.30pm sharp
Trials continue every Tuesday and Thursday until
27th November, 2003

PLACE:

Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevard, Miranda

NOTE:

Be there half an hour before your allocated time

For more details regarding trials please contact:
Vic Ellul - 0408 962 314
Paul Smith - 0403 823 820

World Cup '74 Reunion

By John Tscheppera

John O'Neill, the CEO of the Australian Rugby Union, said recently in an interview that Australian soccer is a 'sleeping giant'!

Many people echo this phrase. But they also always ask: 'When is the 'Giant' going to awaken?'!

I get a lot of E-mails from one person in Germany in particular. He's unique, maybe eccentric, an historian, a person who 'deserted his homeland' so to speak (which is quite rare and disgusting when related to German pride for his country) for the land of the kangaroo.

He adopted Australia when the so-called 'sleeping giant' - Australian soccer - did awake!!! No joke, but we never took advantage of it, we just rolled over and went to sleep again. I still can't remember how Rip van Winkle awoke after his long sleep in that famous fairy-tale!

But Andre Krueger keeps the light glowing; he also wonders when Australia will re-awaken. He adopted the Socceroos when they qualified for the 1974 World Cup in Germany when he was just a youngster. And instead of playing football outside in the parks, streets and schoolyard pretending to be Franz Beckenbauer or Wolfgang Overath or any of the German team, he became Peter Wilson, the Socceroos' English Viking-looking captain - tall, with long-flowing hair, and commanding.

I look up his web-site - www.ak-tsc.de - quite often because he has the greatest museum on Australian World Cup soccer that I can find. He keeps adding to it. Thirty years on he still loves Australia, the Socceroos, and in particular, their achievements of reaching the WC '74 Finals. The entry was consummated on November 13th, 1973, in Hong Kong when a long-range Jimmy Mackay shot flew into the top corner of the net against a gallant South Korea.

Sadly, Jimmy Mackay passed away in 1998, but all other members of that fabulous era are still present. They will gather at the Le Montage Restaurant in Leichhardt and drag Jimmy's memory - which isn't hard - with them for the reunion of one of the greatest events in Australian sporting history.

Memories can never be forgotten, while photos, films, books, oral stories can never be replaced. Australia needs to salute these warriors, like they salute the Diggers of Gallipoli every ANZAC Day because its part of our history. Its part of who we became. It's a way to find out where we're going. And this shouldn't be forgotten.

When you go to the reunion you mix with history, you recoup pride in our nation's achievements first hand. Meet those Socceroos as you sit with them and they tell you their stories. Andre Krueger will travel from Germany to Sydney to be with his beloved Aussies. Talk to him too. He'll give you a distinctly German version.

But don't leave it too late for a seat at the 'head of the table' that should be called Australian soccer's proudest moment.

It'll be a multicultural affair. That's something Australia prides itself in nowadays - people from various walks of life, bringing with them unique cultural backgrounds and languages, settling in the land Down Under and making it their home. Maybe this is where it all began?

The then Australian Soccer Federation, led by Sir Arthur George, appointed a Yugoslavian, Rale Rasic, to take the helm of Australia's World Cup campaign which got under way in 1970.

Gathered together were players from English, German, Hungarian, Scottish, Yugoslavian, and, of course, Australian background. Significantly, there was the first Aboriginal who played in that World Cup Finals campaign and

helping each other for a common cause. Without it Australia may never have got as far as Germany in 1974.

When these part-time players put on the Australian shirt, the green and gold, with the Australian coat-of-arms, they believed that they were unbeatable.

Ray Baartz said later, "We just kept battling our way through match after match hoping the gods would be kind to us. Thank heavens they were."



The 1974 Tour bus used by the Socceroos in Germany. Insert: Rale Rasic in his '74 days as the only coach ever to lead the Roos to a World Cup.

was in Germany when Australia took on the might of West Germany (the eventual World champions), East Germany (unbeaten in over two years of world football) and Chile (a sleeping giant of South American football).

They were all part-timers - a milkman, a taxi driver, a car salesman, a printer, a security guard, a floor tiler and a tailor, and those who worked at the fish market, at the old Post Master General's department, in engineering, in banking and finance and club promotions.

Characters like Adrian Alston, Ivo Rusic, Jimmy Rooney, Ray Richards, Dougie Utjesenovic, Johnny Watkiss, Atti Abonyi, Col Curran and Peter Wilson became heroes.

They enjoyed their football, played with a passion every weekend, and entertained the very large and vocal crowds that graced the 'stadiums' of the past. They probably also got a few bob on the side!

But one thing was for sure. They were great players in their own right. They each contributed a component to their team. They all stood proudly when the national anthem was played; and they sang along because they knew the words.

You want 'true, blue, Aussies', then check these guys out. They are only too happy to chat with you.

The coaching staff was also well credentialed. With Rasic were Assistant Coach Les Scheinflug, John Barclay, Peter van Ryn, John Burgess and Dr. Brian Corrigan. They had backgrounds from all over the world, from Germany, Holland, Scotland and Australia, and with such varied professions as doctoring, physiotherapy, psychology, football and the navy.

Even an Englishman, Jim Scane, travelled everywhere the team did. He was their Number 1 supporter. Now in his 80s, he recently donated his famous tracksuit, cap and all - which will be on display at the reunion dinner - to Rasic's own unique museum.

But one thing was a common trait - mateship! Rasic was astute enough to select players who were, not only, quality players, but people of high human character, who had spirit and courage, and forged them into a bond that is unique in Australia's heritage. This was the ideal of mateship. This was about working together and

It was proven on 13th November, 1973, when, after two gruelling games against Asian opponents, South Korea, a Jimmy Mackay shot ripped into the top corner of the net, sending raptures throughout the Australian camp, disbelief in Australia that the impossible had been done, and shockwaves throughout the footballing world of the fact that a land from the antipodes could be so presumptuous to dictate a place in the World Cup in Germany with the greatest countries in the world.

When the team arrived back at Sydney airport, Jimmy Mackay, holding that famous right boot up, announced, "This is for my little boy... this is for the kids all over Australia."

Remember, only sixteen nations played in the 1974 World Cup! It drew the attention of the nation. Whenever Australia played an international game, it was sumptuously recorded in the media. Even the Prime Minister of the time, Gough Whitlam, was impressed and supportive. We were going places! However, one cruel fate balked the Socceroos' infallibility, bringing them back to some semblance of reality.

Early in 1974, prior to leaving for the World Cup Finals, the Socceroos embarked on a two-match preparatory series against South American giants and two-time winners of the trophy, Uruguay, in Australia. The Aussies drew 0-0 in Melbourne, then won 2-0 in Sydney. But, unfortunately, the greatest striker of all, Ray Baartz, was viciously injured. It ended his career, but he did, on the insistence of all the squad, go to Germany. That, to me, is an example of mateship. Maybe it was also a catalyst for their superb performances. Maybe that admiration was what swayed Andre Krueger to become an 'Aussie'.

In an interview with 'Shoot' magazine in May, 1974, Wilson was asked whether qualification had boosted Australian soccer. He replied, "Yes, ... ever since our play-off in Hong Kong with South Korea was televised, there's been nothing but talk about our soccer prospects in the Finals. "So I'm confident that whatever happens in West Germany, we'll have put Australian soccer on the map."

The rest, they say, is history. Keeping it alive is another story!

SUTHERLAND
SHIRE
SHARKS



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PLACE:

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For more details regarding trials please contact:

Vic Ellul - 0408 962 314
Paul Smith - 0403 823 820

"Pathway to Success"



MANLY-WARRINGAH DOLPHINS SC NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 18 — Season 2004

Players who are looking to play for
the Manly-Warringah Dolphins
Under 18 side in 2004 are asked to
contact Louis Dimitropoulos on
0408 678 780



MT PRITCHARD &
DISTRICT
FEDERATION
SOCCER CLUB
A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard &
District Community Club

STATE LEAGUE TRIALS

at Amalfi Park,
Graham Avenue, Lurnea.

The Trials will be held on,
Tuesdays November 11, 18, 25
Thursdays 6, 13, 20
from 6.30pm and on
Sunday 30th November at 10am

For more information please contact

Mrs Lyn Lock 9607 2156 or
Mobile 0414 413 526 or
Mr Greg Ryan 0417 656 658



National Soccer League



Match of the Week

	Marconi Stallions	1
	Parramatta Power	2

By Joe Russo

Parramatta Power narrowly got the better of Marconi Stallions with 2-1 win at Marconi Stadium thanks in part to the Stallions' lack of discipline.

It was Brad Maloney's rash challenge on Andrew Durante in the 41st minute that left his side a man down. Durante left the field on a stretcher with a broken leg and now could be out for a very long period of time.

The Stallions have been notorious this year for their harsh tackling style and have received far too many unnecessary yellow and red cards as a consequence.

Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos would have been pleased with the three points but can't have been too pleased with his side letting Marconi back into the game in the second half.

Eric Anabalón equalised shortly after half time and for long periods in the second half the Stallions dominated play. Marconi coach, Jean-Paul De Marigny, who has promised to 'change the culture at the club this year', in a clear reference to last year's dismal performances,

would have been pleased with the fact that his team seemed to draw extra inspiration from Maloney's sending off.

Marconi had the better of play for large parts of the second half but in the end it was Parramatta who scored the winning goal thanks to a Matt Thompson header from an Ahmed Elrich cross in the 76th minute.

The first half was played at a cracking pace and often it was end-to-end play. Some of the people in the crowd could be heard saying it was the best match that they had seen this season.

Nick Carle had a shot that went just wide in the 10th minute but Power replied with a nice Ante Milicic shot five minutes later only to be denied by goalkeeper

Michael Turnbull.

Parramatta tried again a minute later with Elrich hitting the side netting and in the 18th minute it was Jeromy Harris for Marconi who hit the post after goalkeeper Clint Bolton had fumbled the ball.

The end-to-end action continued; Milicic in the 19th minute shot just wide after a nice run and passing exchange with Simon Colosimo. Some hesitation from Durante two minutes later allowed Maloney to grab possession and fire a shot which Bolton did very well to save diving to his right.

Marconi made the crucial mistake of not playing to the whistle in the 32nd minute when they were expecting perhaps referee Perry Mur to penalise Milicic for a raised foot. It was this crucial error of judgment that allowed John Buonavoglia the opportunity to score the opening goal of the game.

In the 41st minute Maloney received his marching orders but somehow Marconi found extra inspiration. Shortly after half time in the 47th minute the Stallions equalised thanks to Eric Anabalón and one would have hardly



Both Jean-Paul De Marigny and Nick Theo (Right) had some interesting words that were exchanged on the bench last Saturday evening.

known that Marconi was a player short.

A long distance-shot by Carle in the 50th minute was well saved by Bolton and a shot from Colosimo, from a Power corner, in the 60th minute ended up just wide.

It was Colosimo's good positional play in the 72nd minute that denied Anabalón his second goal as he managed to turn the ball away for a corner.

However, Marconi's fate was sealed four minutes later when Thompson restored Power's lead.

In the dying minutes both teams had their chances; Spiteri shot just wide and Daniel Severino, with only his second touch of the game, forced Bolton into a nice save. Power were not to be outdone and Peter Zorbas shot just over in the 93rd minute of play.

The 2,040 crowd members would have gone home from this local derby satisfied that they had witnessed a very exciting game.

There appeared to be more people there than the official figure but obviously

Sydney's inclement weather that afternoon had prevented a lot of people from attending.



Power defender Andrew Durante suffered a broken leg due to a Brad Maloney (insert) challenge.

Player Ratings

MARCONI STALLIONS:
Turnbull 8, Costanzo 7, Gibson 8, Last 6, Maloney 5, Renaud 6, Brodie 6, Carle 6, Anabalón 7, Harris 6, Spiteri 6.

PARRAMATTA POWER:
Bolton 7, Ceccoli 6, Durante 6 (42' Sobczyk 6), Beecham 6, Dodd 6, Cumprecht 7, Thompson 7, Colosimo 8, Elrich 8, Buonavoglia 7, Milicic 8.



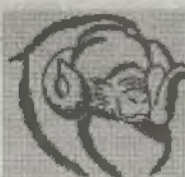
Hurstville City Minotaurs Soccer Club Inc.

Trials 2004 Season
NSW DIVISION ONE YOUTH

Players invited to trial for teams U13s to U18s for one of the best "Super League" club. Good experienced coaches will help in the Development of Youth players always under the watchful eye of the "GENERAL" Mr Peter Sarikakis. Trials commence Tuesday 14th October 6pm and continue every Tuesday thereafter followed by trial matches to decide players picked.

Please attend: **Beverly Hills Park**
Vanessa St, Beverly Hills

For more information: Ring Peter Sarikakis
(02) 9553 1925 (Mobile) 0412 407 830



MACARTHUR DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

TRIALS for SUPER LEAGUE 2004

Enquires Wayne Toogood 0403 798 287

U20 & 1st Grade

October 28, 30

7pm start

Coach Washington Gonzalez

TRIALS for Metropolitan & Premier Youth League

Enquires Mark Williams 0439 756 623 (M)

U11: 2/11	— 9.00AM	U12: 2/11	— 11.00AM
U13: 28/10, 4/11	— 6.00PM	U14: 28/10, 4/11	— 7.30PM
U15: 3/11	— 6.00PM	U16: 30/10, 6/11	— 6.00PM
		U18: 30/10, 6/11	— 7.30PM

TRIALS for Womens Super League & Youth League

Enquires David Finaly 0412 628 154 (M)

Super League: To be advised	U21: To be advised
U16: 29/10, 5/11	— 7.00PM
	U14: 29/10, 5/11
	— 7.00PM
	U12: 31/10, 7/11
	— 7.00PM

All trials held at

Lynwood Park, Rangers Road, St Helens Park

ARRIVE 30 minutes PRIOR to START

DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

TRIALS



Under 20's and 1st Grade

Trial on Tuesdays 4th, 11th, 18th November
at Tempe Reserve, Tempe
Trials commencing 6.00pm

Contact John Ferreira Secretary
Mobile: 0412 076 212



National Soccer League



Sydney Olympic

0



Perth Glory

2

By Peter Damalas

Defending champions Perth Glory recorded their fourth victory in five matches to leap ahead at the top of the National Soccer League standings with a comfortable 2-0 win over Sydney Olympic.

In a rematch of the past two grand finals, two simple strikes from all time leading goalscorer, Damian Mori, settled an affair in which the home side tried but could not get into the game. The 33 year old notched his 213th and 214th goal in the domestic competition with tap ins late in both halves.

For Olympic, experienced duo Ante Juric and Scott Baillie were forced out of the team due to injury, and coach Peter Papadimitrakopoulos, defensive stocks were stretched to the maximum by the evergreen Perth strikeforce.

In the reshuffle, Iain Fyfe was ushered in at sweeper, an unaccustomed position for the former Adelaide City midfielder, and it was his error that led to the opening goal.

Olympic badly needed the injection of experience, in this of all fixtures, and despite the attempts of Paul Kohler and Pablo Cardozo, the team simply could not impose itself on the well structured and disciplined Perth team.

Mich D'Avray's side put Olympic under pressure from the onset, forcing Olympic deep into their own half. After turning his marker, Despotovski

shot wide of goalkeeper Glen Moss,

whose pass infield to Despotovski did not lead to a goal.

The two main chances created by Olympic involved midfielder Zenon Caravella, playing alongside Alilovic in the centre, but these hardly tested goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

The first half was characterised by poor passing, particularly from Olympic out of defence and in the final third. As a result, the Glory dealt with Olympic's attacking threats with relative ease.

The goal for Perth arrived in the 36th minute. Fyfe was found wanting on the edge of the area, and he was easily dispossessed by the adventurous Matthew Horsley, who fed the ball into the path of Mori who struck the ball into an empty net. This calamitous mix up in defence has become an unfortunate trend for Olympic this season.

The second half began with Perth attempting to secure the three points with a second goal. Hassell and Pondejlik had flashes at goal which failed to hit the target as Olympic struggled in midfield.



Olympic's Zenon Caravella shown battling Glory's Wayne Srdj for possession. (Photo By Con Poulos)

left hand post in the 14th minute.

The twenty year old New Zealander was making his full NSL debut in this match, and he did well to deny Brad Hassell with a close range block. His temperament was also called into question as he cleared a poor backpass from Denis Alilovic straight at Mori,

Defender Paul Kohler was pushed forward into midfield as Sydney clawed its way back, and they enjoyed the majority of possession as Perth moved into counter attacking mode.

With the depth of talent in the starting eleven and on the bench, the champions could afford to let Olympic push forward, comfortable in the knowledge that a quick break could see them take a two goal lead.

Desperate defending from George Souris and goalkeeper Moss prevented Mori from doubling the lead on one such counter attack, led with gusto by Pondejlik, who raced into the opposing half and squared the ball for Mori.

But the reprieve was short lived, as Mori scored again in the 76th minute. Pondejlik was again involved, as his shot after a Mori backheel, was blocked straight into the path of the striker who wrapped up the points with another effortless finish.

Perth's performance was solid and clinical. Former Olympic players Jade North, Wayne Shroj and Pondejlik returned to a much changed club, fully settled into the regimented 4-4-2 system used by D'Avray.

The defending champions have been forced to play the majority of matches in the first half of the season away from home.

Player Ratings

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Moss (6.5), Souris (5.5), Kohler (6.5), Schirripa (5.5), Fyfe (5.5), Cardozo (6), Alilovic (6), Bakis (5.5), Balrd (7), Ishida (6), Caravella (7).

SUBS: Karlovic (5.5), Karavatakis (5.5), Browne (5.5).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic (6), Horsley (8), Hassell (6.5), Murphy (7), Srdj (7), Despotovski (7), North (7), Byrnes (7), Pondejlik (8), Mori (9), Coyne (7).

nor Boutsianis of South Melbourne could capitalise to gain a win for their respective teams.

After the match Grant Lee was disappointed to gain full points for the match but put it down to the inexperience of his team. "We are getting better and we worked hard today. We now look forward to the Adelaide game next weekend."

South Melbourne coach Stuart Munro said of his team's performance; "Everything seemed to be going in slow motion today. Both teams attacked and overall it was a good game. For an away performance I am pleased with it."

Either team could have taken this match right down to the final minutes but overall the crowd would probably have been disappointed with what was on show. However this was not the fault of the players but rather the referee's constant blowing of the whistle and his use of the yellow card. One disappointing feature of the NSL this year has been the referee's performances in general and this was yet another example.

Player Ratings

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Reddy 8, Haliti 7, Cunico 5, Vrkic 7, Huxley 6, Parisi 7, Collina 6, Ivanic 6, Rudan 6, Doumanis 6, Filipovic 6, Necevski, Markovic 6, Ozbey 6, Zmire

SYDNEY UNITED: Galekovic 7, Storey 6, Kovacevic 6, Coveny 6, Boutsianis 6, Stergiopoulos 6, Lia 6, Laurie 7, Murdoch 8, Curcija 5, Poutakidis 6, Trimboli 6, Sarkis, Tunbridge 6, Theokitis

Just after the hour a free kick on the edge area saw Con Boutsianis line up behind the ball but Liam Reddy dived well to prevent a goal. In the 67th minute the ball was in the back of the net after Parisi danced through the defence on the left and chipped the ball across the face of goal to Haliti who headed home at the far post. The goal was disallowed as Haliti was adjudged offside.

A couple of late efforts fell to each side but neither Markovic of United,

of the post. In the ninth minute Anthony Doumanis had a shot on target turned past the post by Galekovic in between the sticks for Souths.

Over the next half hour Souths played a patient game and the pressure was building on the home team. Despite having good possession in the attacking third United was coming away with nothing. South Melbourne then tried turning up the heat with some great crosses from their left flank but the home team were constantly able to scramble the ball away, mostly for corners. These corners were dealt with easily by United for the majority of the time.

In the 38th minute Vince Lia found the ball at his feet on the far post but his shot curled away from the far post. Five minutes later the home side had one of their best chances but it failed to even come to a shot.

Franco Parisi had put in a ball from the byline low across the grass between two South Melbourne defenders. This should have been where Ivanic pounced but the youngster was caught on the back of his heels and that momentary lapse in concentration cost a great chance as Poutakidis cleared the ball away.



Sydney United

0



South Melbourne

0

By Stuart Jones

Sydney United and South Melbourne played out a goalless draw at Edensor Park in front of 2,691 people on Sunday afternoon.

Although both sides played well the game was ruined by an inept refereeing performance from Adelaide referee Craig Zetter who handed out eleven yellow cards in a match that was not a rough affair.

South Melbourne disappointed in the match. They always looked like having an extra gear over their opponents but never managed to shift out of the one they started in. For the home side inexperience cost them two points as they looked strong on the break but couldn't finish. It was really United who ended up disappointed with a draw the most.

It was United who had shot out of the blocks early with a few shots coming in early. In the 5th minute Paul Ivanic put in a great cross which both defenders and Franco Parisi missed and which ended up at the feet of an unmarked Labinot Haliti on the far post. Haliti's effort to score was poor as he scuffed his shot and sent it wide



Fraser Park Canterbury Association United

invites all Soccer players to trial for the Season 2004

Super Youth League

U13 - 24/31 October

U14 - 22/29 October

U15 - 21/28 October

U16 - 23/30 October

U18 - 27 October

Time: 6-8pm

U11 & U12 - 26 October

Time: 10-12noon

Where: Fraser Park

100 Marrickville Road,

Marrickville

For further information please contact Roger Jesus on 0409 126 875

St Albans Saints SOCCER CLUB

wishes to invite for both Senior and Reserves Coaching Positions.

Must have senior coaching experience, as well as a Level 2 certificate.

Applications must be forwarded before 31st of October 2003.

Applications may be forwarded to:

St Albans Saints Soccer Club

PO Box 75

St Albans, Victoria. 3021

Or to:

Paul Bourke

Phone: (03) 8605 1222 • Fax: (03) 9366 1473

Mobile: 0419 399 366



Wollongong Wolves Womens' Division

Selection Trials for 2004 Season

Details for age groups and venues are:

Under 12's 9am to 10.30am

Sat & Sun, 1/2 Nov & 8/9 Nov 2003

Wollongong University, Campus East

Under 14's 10.30am to 12pm

Sat & Sun, 1/2 Nov & 8/9 Nov 2003

Wollongong University, Campus East

Senior Teams 1.00pm to 3pm

Sat & Sun, 1/2 Nov & 8/9 Nov 2003

Wollongong University, Campus East

6pm to 8.30pm



Wed 12 Nov 2003

Northfields Ave, Wollongong University

You will need soccer gear (boots, shinpads etc) lots of water, heaps of sunscreen, a great attitude, loads of energy

For more information please contact: Carl Jacobs 0403 604 611 • Mauro Tacca 0419 418 286

National Soccer League

	Melbourne Knights	0
	Northern Spirit	1

A LAST-GASP penalty save has preserved an away win for Northern Spirit over the Melbourne Knights, allowing the Sydney side to leapfrog its opponent on the NSL ladder.

Paul Henderson's fine

diving save of an Anthony Pelikan penalty in the 86th minute saw the Spirit cling on to the advantage they had held all day after scoring barely a minute into the match.

It was the Spirit's second win of the season and extended their record of hav-

ing never lost away to the Knights in six games.

The Knights sink ever lower on the ladder, with no cure to their goalscoring blues - having hit the back of the net just four times in five matches.

The Spirit stunned the home team with a goal while

much of the crowd was getting seated, Dylan Macallister punishing some hesitant defending with a thumping volley from the edge of the area into the top corner of the net.

There were a series of opportunities for both teams in the opening half with John Hutchinson chiming in well from the left flank for the visitors and the home side going close with a catalogue of chances.

The second-half was a tighter affair, with the home side controlling the weight of possession but failing to create scoring opportunities.

With four minutes left on the clock the Knights won a contentious penalty, with Pelikan falling readily under a challenge after running onto a loose ball in the box.

Pelikan took the kick himself, but saw his shot to the bottom right corner turned around the post by Henderson with a full-stretch dive.

"It's a long game when

you score after a minute and then hang on for 89," Spirit coach Lawrie McKinnna said.

"I said to the boys, 'I don't care if we hang on like that every week, winning is everything and it doesn't have to be attractive'."



Knights coach Ian Dobson arrived at the club for this campaign with the aim of fixing a defence that was by some distance the league's leakiest last season, but now has a new headache.

"We're defensively well organised and now we have that sorted out we have to work out where we score the goals from," Dobson said.

"Today was a good performance as far as I'm concerned but we're in a situation where we're chasing games all the time.

"The longer it goes on, the longer the wins don't come, then people start losing faith."

Source - AAP

	Newcastle United	2
	Adelaide United	3

A crowd of 3,005 was on hand at Energy Australia Stadium to witness Newcastle United squander a two-goal lead as they went down 3-2 to NSL newcomers Adelaide United.

Ian Crooks injury woes continued as his side were missing experienced players in Robbie Middleby, Craig Deans and Milan Blagojevic. Meanwhile Peter Tsenkis was suspended following his dismissal in the 4-1 defeat at the hands of South Melbourne. However, the Newcastle coach did have Mitchell Johnson and Tom Willis at his disposal after their return from international duty in Dubai.

Adelaide coach John Kosmina fielded an unchanged line up keeping faith in the side which recorded a memorable debut victory against the Brisbane Strikers last week.

The away side began slowly with Newcastle enjoying the majority of the possession in the opening stages. Despite their lack of full match fitness, having played just one NSL game so far, Adelaide's well organised defence managed to keep the home side at bay.

After an uneventful start to the match Newcastle took the lead on 16 minutes with Greg Owens scoring his second goal in as many games.

Mitchell Johnson played a long ball from inside his own half finding Ryan Griffiths on the left touchline. The young strikers cross found Owens on the far post, whose outstretched leg put the ball into the back of the net giving the home side an early 1-0 lead.

Chances for the new Adelaide side were few and far between in the first half with many of the efforts coming from long distance. In the 28th minute Goran Lozanovski played a square ball to Ross Aloisi whose twenty metre shot stung the palms of Newcastle custodian

John Perosh.

The second half saw the game develop into a much more open contest with a 17 minute period seeing a total of four goals scored.

The first of the half arrived on 61 minutes with the home side doubling their advantage over John Kosmina's Adelaide side. Lozanovski gave away possession cheaply in the middle of the park to Newcastle's Ryan Griffiths who burst forward towards goal. He picked out the run of Damien Brown on the left whose inch perfect cross picked out an unmarked Griffiths. The pacy striker headed the ball into the net from six yards extending Newcastle's lead to 2-0.

However, Adelaide were handed a lifeline just three minutes later when they were awarded a penalty following Scott Thomas challenge on Aurelio Vidmar. Carl Veart stepped up to convert the spot kick into the bottom left corner reducing the deficit to just one goal. Both coaches agreed with the penalty decision with Ian Crook saying, I think we handed them the first with a brain dead challenge.

Adelaide were back on level terms on 73 minutes with captain Aurelio Vidmar scoring the equaliser for the South Australian side. A long ball forward from defence found substitute Mislav Saric in behind the defence who played a square ball to the experienced Vidmar. The former Socceroo was unmarked on the edge of the area and his calm finish leveled the scores at 2-2.

The remarkable 14 minute comeback was complete on 77 minutes with Carl Veart registering his third goal in two games. Substitute Mislav Saric was again involved in the build up with his cross from the right finding Veart inside six yards.

The experienced strikers header was touched onto the post by goalkeeper John Perosh before rebounding into

the net giving Adelaide a 3-2 lead.

Carl Veart has repaid John Kosmina's faith in him as a striker this season with three goals after not finding the net a single time during last season's campaign.

Newcastle paid the price for letting Adelaide back into the game and should have gone on to secure all three points according to coach Ian Crook who said, We've had enough chances tonight to close it out.

The home side did have one final chance to snatch a point right at the death when Greg Owens was presented with a golden opportunity to score the equaliser. Ryan Griffiths cross from the left found Damien Brown on the far post who hooked the ball back in towards Owens. The United midfielder was unmarked inside six yards and headed the ball towards goal only to see his effort come back off the upright.

John Kosmina's Adelaide United secured all three points continuing their positive start to the season.

However, the Adelaide coach admitted their performance was not the best saying, We didn't play as well as we did last week.

Ian Crook summed up the match when he said, Everything they hit went into the back of the net.

Newcastle United: J Perosh (gk) 6, A Griffiths 7, S Thomas 5, G Owens 6, M Wilson 6, R Griffiths 6, M Johnson 7, J Mitchell 6, J Wheelhouse 7, E Masi 6, D Brown 7.

Subs: T Willis (gk), K Wolfenden, P McPherson, T Libbesson.

Adelaide United: D Scarcella (gk) 6, R Alagich 7, K Rees 6, A Goulding 6, M Valkanis 7, R Aloisi 6, C Veart 7, A Vidmar 8, G Lozanovski 5, E Demourtzidis 5, M Kemp 6.

Subs: R Bajic (gk), D Terminello, M Saric, A Pellegrino.



CYC STANMORE HAWKS

will be conducting 2004 TRIALS for FIRST DIVISION Youth Players in the following age groups U13, U14, U15, U16 and U18

Trials will run three consecutive Mondays commencing

Monday 27 October and 3 and 10 November

Coaching will be over sighted by the Club's Head Coach & Youth Co-Ordinator Greg Kokovladis (Level 3 NCAS) & John Doyle (Former Socceroo Player and Coach) Technical Development Co-ordinator Time: Between 6-8PM Venue: Mahoney Reserve Cnr Illawarra Rd & Wharf St, Marrickville

Enquiries: Contact
CHRIS 0412 047 238
TASOS 0417 216 936
STEVEN 0419 292 541

COACHES

Coaches required for above age groups please contact John on 0414 788 897 for enquiries

MARCONI
STALLIONS

Marconi Southern District Girls Youth and Womens U21 and First League 2004

TRIALS

Girls Grade 12 (Players born in 1992)

10.00am Saturday 1st November 2003
6.00pm Tuesday 4th November 2003
10.00am Saturday 8th November 2003

Girls Grade 14 (Players born in 1990)

12.00pm Saturday 1st November 2003
6.00pm Tuesday 4th November 2003
12.00pm Saturday 8th November 2003

Girls Grade 16 (Players born in 1988)

2.30pm Saturday 1st November 2003
7.30pm Tuesday 4th November 2003
2.30pm Saturday 8th November 2003

Womens U21 (Reserve Grade)

3.00pm Sunday 2nd November 2003
7.00pm Wednesday 5th November 2003
3.00pm Sunday 9th November 2003

Womens First Grade

3.00pm Sunday 2nd November 2003
7.00pm Wednesday 5th November 2003
3.00pm Sunday 9th November 2003

- All trials to be held at CLUB MARCONI TRAINING FIELD 4
- Players must report 30 minutes prior to starting time to register.
- All players must wear correct playing equipment including shin pads.

ENQUIRIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sam Papa Girls Youth League/Womens League Convenor
0425 291 122 after 5pm
or **0417 211 768**

BYE - BRISBANE STRIKERS

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves Hampered by Lack of Players -

Injuries - Injuries - Injuries provide a real headache for coach John Turner. Out of a squad of 20 players at training the other night only 12 were available plus 2 from the Youth Grade had to be called upon.

Severe trouble stopped striker Stuart Young (rip cage), Vlado Zoric (knee), Shane Lyons (tendonitis), Stewart van Bentum (leg), Tanju Balabanel

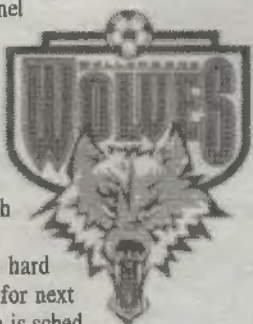
(leg), Jacob Timpano (muscle), Ben Blake (hamstring) plus Dustin Wells at present away with the Australian Young Socceroos to take part in the World Youth Championship.

The coach could be hard pressed to field a fit team for next weekend. Luckily no match is scheduled.

Observing the remaining squad training, one could not miss that enthusiasm has not deserted them. They are on a steep learning curve and will improve with games to contest, the boys have to deal with initial set-backs and get used to even more, hoping for better times.

John Turner is full of ideas to assist his battling team and preaches patience at present an perseverance, with strong commitment and willpower the players can achieve better results to prove to themselves and the fans they are good enough to compete in the NSL.

Not an easy job for any coach confronted with huge injury problems.



SOCCERWOMAN by Janene Mar

WNSL 2003/04

<< RESULTS AND STATISTICS >>

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	2	2	-	-	10	0	10	6
QUEENSLAND STING	2	2	-	-	9	2	7	6
ADELAIDE SENSATION	2	1	-	1	4	5	-1	3
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	2	-	1	1	0	1	-1	1
VICTORIA VISION	2	-	1	1	1	5	-4	1
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	2	-	-	2	1	12	-11	0

Round Two :

Bathurst / Newcastle / Brisbane : 25-26 Oct 2003

NSW SAPPHIRES 1 (own goal 58') defeated CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0

ADELAIDE SENSATION 3 (Lisa De Vanna 4', Vicki Balomenos 15', Leanne Slater 23') defeated NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1 (Katie Gill 85')

QUEENSLAND STING 5 (Jessica Mitchell 27', 59', Sarah Walsh 46+', Belinda Dawney 55', Lana Harch 88') defeated VICTORIA VISION 1 (Leigh Terek 62')

NSW Sapphires and Queensland Sting, last season's grandfinalists, hold the lead atop the WNSL points ladder after the completion of Round Two action. Adelaide Sensation produced a win to leapfrog into third position.

QUENSLAND STING 5 (Jessica Mitchell 27m, 59m, Sarah Walsh 46+m, Belinda Dawney 55m, Lana Harch 88m) defeated **VICTORIA VISION** 1 (Leigh Terek 62m) at Lions Stadium, Brisbane

Queensland Sting proved too good for Victoria Vision in this Sunday afternoon match in Brisbane, racking up a comprehensive 5-1 win.

In draining heat, Sting dominated the game from start to finish, outplaying their much less experienced opponent. Visitors Vision rarely threatened the defending champions.

Jessica Mitchell opened Queensland's account in the 27th minute, released behind the defence with a Belinda Dawney through ball, and successful in the one-on-one with the goalkeeper. Sting scored their second in stoppage time of the first half, Sarah Walsh with a marvellous solo raid up the middle of the park from the halfway line and finishing well.

The home side all but sealed victory with their third goal ten minutes into the second half when Alicia Ferguson's cross from the right set up Dawney with the strike. Soon after, in the 59th minute, Sting extended their lead with another goal to Mitchell, her fourth

for the season, converting after a Walsh through ball.

Four minutes later, Victoria hit back with a top class goal, Leigh Terek finding the back of the net with a sweet volley from outside the 18-yard box to take the score to 4-1. Sting wrapped up the game with another goal two minutes from time, substitute Lana Harch volleying home a Heather Garriock cross.

Sting - Kitching, McShea (Harch 65), Reiter, Garven, Grant, Garriock, Canham, Ferguson, Mitchell (Mann

65), Walsh (Duus 80), Dawney (Williams 80).

Vision - Barbieri, Digiammarco, Smith, McEvoy, Lamb (Thomton 70), Fitzgerald, Bisby, Maza (Angelucci 59), Jackson (Totsidis 70), Terek, Pannella (Balta 83).

ADELAIDE SENSATION 3 (Lisa De Vanna 4m, Vicki Balomenos 15m, Leanne Slater 23m) defeated **NORTHERN NSW PRIDE** 1 (Katie Gill 85m) at Wanderers Oval, Newcastle

On Sunday morning in Newcastle, Adelaide

Sensation scored three early goals to set up their 3-1 win over Northern NSW Pride.

Adelaide's pacy duo of Lisa De Vanna and Vicki Balomenos caused headaches for the opposition every time they had the ball to clearly dominate the first half.

Northern however turned things around after the break, tightening up their defence and creating the better opportunities but unable to capitalise with more goals.

Sensation had the home side instantly on the ropes with a goal after just four minutes, De Vanna with a fantastic individual effort.

The striker surged toward goal, leaving defenders in her wake, and slotted the ball home.

The lead was doubled on the quarter-hour mark, De Vanna and Balomenos combining neatly to set up Balomenos on goal. Eight minutes later, Leanne Slater was able to find the target amidst a scramble in the box for Adelaide's third.

A revitalised Pride emerged from the dressing rooms for the second half now armed with the answers to combat the Sensation attack and finally started to put their mark on proceedings. They were unlucky not to pull a goal or two back not long after, hitting the woodwork on two occasions, plus a further chance blocked twice on the line in quick succession.

When Northern did find the target, it was more of a consolation goal with only five minutes remaining. Katie Gill beat the offside trap and made no mistake with the shot.

Pride - Herd, Shepherd (Colthorpe 61), Cotts, Oxtoby, Townsend, Kermode, Neilson, Andreatta (O'Toole), Khamis (Klessattel 80), Crawford, Gill.

Sensation - Wirkus, May, Vogt, Burgess, Shigrov, McCallum, Spagnoletti (Wilson 65), Stocco, Slater, Balomenos (Walsh 69), De Vanna.

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2003/04 (As at End of Round Two)

4	Jessica MITCHELL	Queensland Sting
2	Sally SHIPARD	NSW Sapphires
2	Catherine CANNULI	NSW Sapphires
2	Michelle CARNEY	NSW Sapphires
2	Belinda DAWNEY	Queensland Sting

Adelaide Utd set for another sellout

Adelaide United are heading for another Hindmarsh sellout for this week's home match against Sydney United.

Friday's come-from-behind win at second-placed Newcastle has proved United's credentials and caught the imagination of Adelaide's sporting public.

Last week United had sold over 6,000 season tickets to the 15,500 capacity Hindmarsh ground.

United marketing manager Angelo Picca told the Sunday Mail: "There's no doubt we had a few problems in game one.

"But I can guarantee that 99.9 per cent of our season ticket holders have received their tickets and they shouldn't experience the same delays as they did against Brisbane."

Man Utd couldn't find Bozza evidence - Kelly

Former Manchester United security chief Mike "Ned" Kelly has revealed how the club couldn't find any evidence that Aussie goalkeeper Mark Bosnich was a drug user.

In his manuscript, which is being serialized in the News of the World, Kelly reveals how he investigated the United goalkeeper Bosnich over claims he was a coke addict.

He writes: "We all knew that Bosnich was hanging around with undesirables and even the dogs in the street knew he was a 'cokehead'.

"I used to joke that he'd sniff the white line off the M6 if he was stuck. But while rumours were rife in Manchester that he was indulging heavily in cocaine, my investigations into the stories were inconclusive.

"I spoke to a few people in the know, yet couldn't get any concrete proof that he was taking the stuff.

"When Mark finally moved to Chelsea, he tested positive for traces of cocaine in his blood and was sacked. Few at United were surprised."

UNSW



SOCCER CLUB

ENTERS GIRL'S YOUTH LEAGUE IN 2004

The University of New South Wales following premierships in Women's State League First Grade and U/21's in 2003, have expanded their youth development to include Girl's Youth League in 2004. All grades are overseen by Head Women's Coach, Dez Marton.

All trials to be held at David Phillips Fields, Cnr Banks and Gwea Ave, Daceyville.

Tuesday	4th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Friday	7th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Sunday	9th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	10am to 12noon
Tuesday	11th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Friday	14th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Sunday	16th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	10am to 12noon

You will need:- soccer equipment (boots, shinpads, etc), Lots of water and sunscreen.

Coaches required for Girls Youth League (U/12's, U/14's and U/16's)
Applications Close 31st October 2003.

Please forward your application to:
The Secretary
UNSW Soccer Club
C/- UNSW Sports Association
Sam Craknell Pavillion UNSW
Kensington NSW 2052

Or by Fax: (02) 9385 6474

For further information please contact Troy Cook, President, on 0412 069 068 or troy.cook@optusnet.com.au

Letters & Giveaways



SOUTH'S CROWD

Dear Sir,

As one of the seven thousand fans that turned up to the first match between South Melbourne - Brisbane Strikers I'd like to say how proud I was to see so many Blues fans out. The result didn't go our way but we did win the fans over which was great. I liked the fact that so many people were dressed in Blue and White and were chanting 'South Melbourne', like the good old days.



Stuart Munro has assembled a great squad just getting the team together is what he needs to do.

South Melbourne once again showed last week that they are a side worthy of staying in the National League - fan support is like no other apart from the Perth Glory.

Hopefully we can string some results together and who knows, the ten thousand mark could possibly hit.

Michael Zakarias,
Melbourne, VIC.

ADELAIDE OLE!



Dear Sir,

Just want to express my delight at being at Adelaide United's first ever match in the National League against the Strikers last week - what a game! The atmosphere was amazing, second to none, who said people didn't like soccer in South Australia?

I know the locals will grasp this team with both hands, I'm wishing the boys the best of success and hope that we can do the unimaginable and crack a top six spot in our first year, how glorious that would be.

Kosmina and the boys will do our state proud, its rich in soccer history and only deserves the best, come on Adelaide - let's do it!

One-nil was a great result for us considering we only assembled the squad five weeks ago. Here's to more victories.

Ray Wallace,
South Australia.

'SOCCER IS NOT DEAD'

Dear Sir,

I just wanted to express my delight in watching the Adelaide United side gain 15 thousand plus crowd to their first match of the season.

How good was that?

I wish I was part of the crowd over there witnessing such a match that had so many positives. It really shut many critics

mouths about the code in this country.

Many people have said that the game is finished, I say, its only just begun.

The code has so much to offer in this country and I know with Frank Lowy in charge, the code will take a step forward.

Congratulations Adelaide - just goes to show that the only Adelaide weren't doing the right thing for the game.

James Keyton,
Rockdale, NSW.

DIVING PART OF THE GAME

Dear Sir,

In response to Joe Russo's Italian Affair in last week's ABSW, the writer talks about how diving is a 'plague'.

Just to let you know Joe, diving is part of the game, always has and always will. Yes it is a form of cheating however in any game situation, anything and everything is needed to secure that vital victory over their opponents.

This isn't a letter bagging the writer, its simply stating the fact that diving is plain a simple a part of the game now-a-days.

Written in the Italian column, the most dives you see come from the Serie A - but that's not something I wish to complain about as I love the Italian soccer.

Talks about punishing Juventus for Zambrotta's actions is a little too much don't you think?

I enjoy reading your column every week though, the Siena story was great keep it up but leave the diving alone!

By the way - it was about time the Serie B tables and results were put in - being a Catania supporter - its good seeing the side in the paper.

Michael Santini,
Brunswick, VIC.

OLYMPIC FAITHFUL

Dear Sir,

How wonderful its been seeing Sydney Olympic gain in advantage in encouraging more fans to come to the game - its worked wonders that's for sure.

This season the club might not have the team that it did last year but its sure has lifted the spirits of the supporters in coming out and watching the games.

Once the club strings a few good results then the flood gates will open further.

I've been to the clubs first two home matches and was impressed with the following the side received - just goes to show that the people that said Cronulla was the way to go was wrong.

The move to Shark Park pretty much killed the tradition the club ever stood for. Now its back in full force with a young energetic group full passion ready to take the side to a whole new level.

John Kapsis,
Brookvale, NSW.

GENERAL PUBLIC GET CHANCE TO SUBMIT ON NSL REFORM

Dear Sir,

The Board of Australian Soccer Association Limited (ASA) has resolved to appoint a Task Force to review and make recommendations for the introduction of a new national soccer league in Australia.

The league will be established as a separate company operating under licence from ASA.

In arriving at its recommendations to the Board of ASA, the task force proposes to consult with existing NSL clubs and other interested parties including the general public on the structure of the new league.

The Task Force now provides an opportunity for members of the public to make written submissions, although because of time constraints placed upon the Task Force, which must make its recommendations by December 2003, any submissions should be concise and must reach ASA by 31 October 2003.



Stefan Kamasz: NSL Task Force Secretary.

By way of assistance, should you choose to lodge a submission with the task force, it should contain the views on the following issues:

- the structure of the league,
- criteria and benchmarks,
- the level of club funding required to participate,
- the number of clubs,
- the optimum number of matches in a season,
- the season length and whether it should be a summer or winter competition, and
- other matters you believe are relevant.

Please note, the task force will not be dealing with the commercial marketing of the league, this being outside the terms of reference.

Submissions should be addressed to:
Stefan Kamasz
NSL Task Force Secretary
PO Box 6038
Silverwater NSW 1811

Or alternatively be sent to info@australiansoccer.com.au and marked to the attention of NSL Task Force Secretary.

UNION RULES?

Dear Sir,

Only days after the R.W.C. began both Rugby League and AFL are 'unimpressed' by the threat of Rugby to their dominance in Australia. Without doubt the credibility of the R.W.C. has been damaged by too many one sided games, indifferent TV ratings, disappointing numbers of overseas visitors and generally more hype than substance.

However I believe that a hidden factor that really exposed the R.W.C. was the extensive TV coverage of Japan/Korea 2002 in prime time. Even though no Australian team was in the finals it was the first time that mainstream Australia was able to see and experience what a real World Cup football tournament was like.

Better still they enjoyed the experience even though most were not soccer fans. With that experience still fresh in the mind the R.W.C. is by comparison nothing more than a 'CLAYTONS' pretend World Cup. The claim by the Rugby people that the R.W.C. is the worlds third biggest sporting event (a very dubious claim) does not measure up as the Oz public can see plainly.

Rather than damage the position of soccer in Australia move (if that is possible) the R.W.C. should spur on everybody even non soccer fans to make the extra effort to qualify for Germany 2006. The reality is if you are not part of the FIFA World Cup final series you are camping out.

As a footnote during Japan/Korea 2002 many areas of the hospitality and gaming industry in Australia boomed in what is usually a very quiet time of the year.

Commercial interests were amazed at the amount of business Japan/Korea 2002 generated in Australia despite the absence of an Australian team involvement.

A valuable lesson was learnt about what an economic impact the FIFA World Cup finals can have being in a non soccer but sports mad country like Australia.

The road to Germany 2006 for the Socceroos will be long and hard but in a perverse way the current R.W.C. could unintentionally enhance the prospects of success in at last qualifying exactly 32 years after West Germany 1974.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

FIFA 2004 MAYEHM

FIFA Soccer 2004 is the most complete and authentic soccer experience for true soccer fans.

This year's action is deeper than ever with advanced levels of player detail and responsiveness. Plus, a new Career Mode gives you the chance to take a team from the lower divisions, battle through ranks, sign new players, and turn them into champions. With immersive atmospheres, total realism with the world's premier clubs, and industry-leading gameplay, FIFA Soccer 2004 returns as the true authority in soccer gaming.

FIFA SOCCER 2004 Key Features

* Off the Ball™ Control: Take control of players away from the ball, and run them into space for attacking passes or gain valuable position during dead ball kicks.

* Groundbreaking Gameplay: A fine-tuned game engine, and new animations dramatically enhance the smoothness in player movement.

* Expanded Database and Controls: Deeper team AI, attributes, tactics, playing styles, control, and individual player personalities.

* Be the Ultimate Player Manager: Build your franchise and guide your club to the Championship by making calculated front-office decisions with Career Mode. When one season ends and another begins new challenges will present themselves.



* Immersive Environments: More than 300 new crowd chants at an ever growing list of officially licensed stadiums help put you in the best seat in the house. Plus, an all-new dynamic weather feature even affects gameplay, so choose your home wisely.

* Play With The Best: More than 500 official licenses, including 16 leagues, 350 teams and 10,000 players. From Europe's super leagues to the Americas Club Championship, FIFA Soccer 2004 has the most authentic selection of the world's best.

* A Game With No Boundaries: Go online and take on opponents from anywhere in the country (PlayStation®2 and PC only). An online lobby area where gamers can meet, greet, chat and play head-to-head provides the ultimate interactive experience.

Stay tuned ABSW will be giving out copies of FIFA 2004 on P2 and PC in the next few week's, as part of the FIFA competition.



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PREMIERSHIP BIZARRO

It's Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarro. Each week we give you the news and views from around the grounds of the EPL.

This week we see Sir Ferg getting a slap on the wrists, which is about all it can be described as. After abusing the 4th official in the Newcastle game the FA have slapped a 10 grand fine and a 2 match hiatus in the director's box. Do we think he cares? Not a jot!

Someone who had better start worrying is Rio. After missing his D-Day pee in a bottle, Rio is now in a spot of bother. Latest is that the FA have delayed the hearing as they are gathering further evidence and Rio has to wait to find out what charges he will face.

Even the Olympics committee is on the bandwagon demanding a minimum 6 month ban so it looks good for the Olympic bid. ManU have said they will sue the pants off the FA if he cops a ban.

Rio had better have a good yarn for the FA, as they are ready to throw the book

case at him.

It looks like he will need the 6 months to also "please explain", from the 3 girlfriends he has in tow.

Glen Hod is back in the news, this time at the end of a stinger from Old Dinosaur, Dave Pleat. It sounds like Pleaty didn't have much time for Glen the Manager, stating that Glen was always trying to prove himself on the training ground (no wonder he always looked knackered).

Wolves' gaffer, Dave Jones has gone on a mission to turn the Molineux into a home for the aged. Gazza is the latest oldie. He is training with the dirty olds but is gagging for one last dig at the EPL.

If Gazza can prove his fitness why wouldn't they take a chance on him... with Jonesy trying to talk 3 times retired Peter Schmeichel back for one last season, along with his Zimmer frame.

What Wolves would give for a transfer kitty the size of Roman's trouser pocket. It looks like the Big Ruski is sticking his hand in the sky rocket again with a whopping 35 million quid bid for Wayne

Ronaldinho and a less whopping 25 mil for Real left sided raider, Robbie Carlos. Everton have issued a hands off warning (like Red Roman will take any notice of that) while Robbie stands to clean up a cool 4 mil per year! Red Roman should look at talking Schmeichel out of retirement.

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarro

Current stopper Claudia Cudicini is having a Barry Crocker this season. His latest gaff being a nutmeg from 10 yards which let Terry Henry in for the winner.

This week also saw the resumption of events in the Euro Champs Cup. The "Battle of Britain" didn't turn out to be the

bloodbath many of us expected. The other Neville scored the all important goal with a miss hit. Chelski accounted for Lazio 2-1 and there were no surprises in Kiev where the Ars continued there fine Euro form with a 2-1 defeat. Ars Wenger still thinks they can qualify for the next stage. We think he needs a check up from the neck up.

The biggest surprise of the week goes to...Derek! He reported in this week's show that Robbie Savage has never been sent off. I nearly fell off my seat. How in the hell has he escaped a red? We would like to hear from any bookies that will give us odds on him getting his marching orders before the end of the season.

Wedding Bells are ringing in Spain for Igor Saez. He booked his big day for November 15 and delightedly announced the news to his dad.

Old Man Saez told his distraught son that he would not be able to make the big day, as he is the manager of the Spanish national team and will be trying to qualify for Euro 2004 against Norway. Igor must

have thought that Spain would automatically qualify...Thank again Igor!

Quote of the Week: "My hands are tied behind me, I'm wearing a blindfold and people are trying to kick my feet from under me. There is always someone worse off than you, but I'd be interested to meet that person!"

Wimbledon boss Stuart Murdoch after the 6-0 thrashing by Nottingham Forest

To finish this week's Bizarro we take a trip to Argentina where there has been a spate of resignations in the Apertura. 2 of the notables were Oscar "Big Head" Ruggeri and Carlos "Big Nose" Bilardo. Interesting choice of nicknames.

There endith another week of Bizarro in the Premiership. Tune your computers into www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks.

See you here next week!

*Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarro*

Victorian Chronicles



By Brandon Davis

Adelaide — The Real McCoy

NSL fans are a strange lot, demanding reform on one hand, then cynically welcoming the reformed Adelaide United.

This last minute entrant into the NSL highlights the opportunities a well managed, broad based, properly market club can achieve — in one month.

The comparisons to the Northern Spirit are ridiculous

Adelaide United might have offered low cost entry at \$10 (and free for children) to their first game but Spirit spent a season giving free entry to everyone. Basic marketing studies emphasise the fact consumers vote with their feet, if we have to pay for something we have to really want it. When its free it distorts the demand curve.

So what did Adelaide do so well?

Anyone monitoring the media in that state over the last month saw the extensive mainstream media the club received. The evening news, the daily papers, even the talkback radio were blanketed with news on the soccer team

This was boosted further by celebrity appearances including AFL footballers and Lleyton Hewitt of tennis fame.

Even the team strip was well designed from a marketing perspective, it featured the Adelaide state colours.

The marketing people have clearly studied the launch of the AFL team, the Adelaide Crows, then improved on this successful model

Critically they have strong corporate support. With many NSL Clubs securing under \$500,000 in corporate sponsorship, Adelaide have supposedly already secured more than twice this sum on a gross basis.

Combined with the healthy and sustainable gate and probable merchandising revenue, Adelaide United could quickly become the most successful NSL Club in Australia.

Northern Spirit are one of six NSW based teams, they were poorly marketed, appealed to a microcosm of the Sydney sporting community, have never been able to garnish any media support and failed on the park. Giving away large numbers of free tickets is a terrible means of securing sustainable support while devaluing the marketable commodity

Other cynics have drawn comparisons with the failed Carlton Club. Officially Carlton attracted 6,500 for their first NSL fixture, in reality the figure was considerably less than that. Carlton was initially intended to support the Carlton Football Club — which in turn alienated the followers of the other 11 clubs in Victoria (more than 90% of the population), and was never properly capitalised.

Carlton fans wrongly labelled the club as being "broad based" in fact it appealed to less than 10% of Victorians, was poorly marketed and never looked like succeeding. The fact a club is not linked to a particular ethnic group does not equate to it being broad based.

Adelaide, at this early stage are a credit to the management of the club and the state soccer federation.

All soccer fans should congratulate and support the directors and staff at Adelaide United — they are the future of Australian soccer

Welcome to Melbourne

The newly formed Adelaide United Supporters Club is arranging a trip for its fans to Melbourne for the

November 23rd fixture against South Melbourne at Bob Jane

Its terrific to see their new legion of fans are already that committed they want to travel interstate to follow their team.

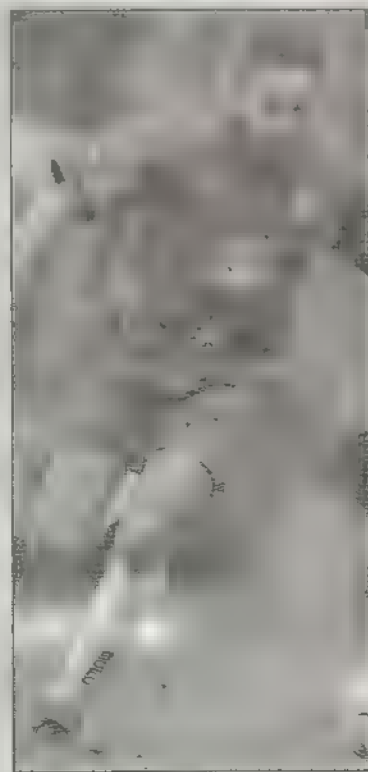
This game will kick off at the new time spot of 7:30pm on the Sunday, something South are experimenting with this season.

Credit to Stan, Lazaridis

With the English Premier League in full swing so many Australian are plying their trade impressively with their feats being widely reported in both the mainstream and soccer media.

But little has been written about the impressive performance of Stan Lazaridis who plays for the unfashionable Midlands club, Birmingham City.

Stan spent much of last season in the reserves or on the substitutes



Stan Lazaridis is doing wonders at Birmingham City this season.

bench at Birmingham.

Entering the twilight of his career and the last season of his contract, he looked set to fizzle out of European Football. Then Birmingham City suffered a horror run of injuries, resulting in Stan Lazaridis getting his chance.

And he grabbed it with both hands.

He finished the season in spectacular fashion, not only cementing his place in Steve Bruce's starting eleven but becoming an automatic selection both on the park and as a fans favourite. And he played a big part in the Blues retaining their Premiership status

He was rewarded with a new two year contract by Steve Bruce in the summer

This season Stan has been spectacular, he is one of the best performing Aussies in England.

While he's easily retained his starting spot in the Blues line up, he has performed in the matches that really count, against Roman Abramovich's Chelsea the Aussie did us proud by taking on and beating the biggest named and highest paid footballers in the world. In a dour scoreless draw Stan lead most of Birmingham's forward thrusts.

Against arch rivals Aston Villa, in another scoreless draw Stan was again one of the Blues' best players.

At Old Trafford, Lazza was impressive until goalkeeper Taylor was red carded forcing Steve Bruce sacrifice Stan to bring on his substitute custodian. Against Portsmouth Lazaridis killed off the contest with a wonderful 50th minute goal before narrowly missing another only minutes later.

Stan Lazaridis is enjoying another outstanding season at Birmingham City, he has made a major contribution to the club's success, they are currently fourth on the table and no doubt he will make a major contribution to Birmingham's further successes through the season.

OLYMPIAKOS LOOK TOWARDS OZ LINK-UP

Seven-time Greek Champions Olympiakos FC last week announced its willingness to amalgamate with various Australian-Greek based clubs in Sydney as part of a plan to help scout potential players and help them with their membership base.

Representatives from the Stanmore Hawks, Belmore Hercules, Parramatta Star, Hurstville City Minotaur and Liverpool Olympic all met and held discussions regarding this venture proposed by the Greek giants who hope to strike up a deal very soon.

Olympiakos have asked that their desire is to unearth any possible youth talents from Australia that in return will fly over and trial with the club

What the Greek club wants also is to strengthen its fan base all over the world and due to Australia having a large Greek following, its horizons could be broadened with the announcement of joining up with various Greek based clubs in Sydney.

The meeting held many hot topics of discussion and although only on the blue print, a proposed academy, coaches flying to Greece as special guests of the club seeing how the big guys work and finally players and a selected Australian-Greek based squad could well be taking on the giants of Greek youth football.

All this is and more is what all the clubs hope Olympiakos will come to an agreement with but its been stated that the hierarchy of the Red Devils led by President Sokratis Kokkalis and son Petros will be visit-

ing Australia as part of their plans to establish concrete connections with these clubs.

Like the Manchester United/Parramatta Eagles venture, a similar one could be formed. The Greek community clubs has also thrown its weight behind in support of this possible deal that could be the first every Greek link-up in this country

Olympiakos have been known to be one of Europe's leading clubs due to its enormous success in Greek Football

The side has been involved in the coveted Champions League for the past seven years and have only recently put forward a new proposed stadium which should be built just in time for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Led by Ukrainian coach Oleg Protasov, the side will also look towards boosting its youth set-up, top class facilities have already been put in place for juniors to mould into future stars.



Sokratis Kokkalis: Olympiakos chairman could be heading down-under?

Young Roos selected after win over the UAE

The Australian Under 20 national team has defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-0 in a friendly match played in Abu Dhabi last week.

First half goals to Vince Lia and captain Scott McDonald secured a comfortable victory in a match played in oppressive humidity.

The two match tour of the UAE - the first match last Friday finished 0-0 - have been the first outings for the Qantas Young Socceroos since winning the Oceania qualifying tournament in December last year.

Australia was in control of the match throughout with goalkeeper Tom Willis rarely forced into action. The Australians opened the scoring just after the half hour mark when captain McDonald provided the pass for South Melbourne midfielder Lia to score from 10 yards.

The same duo combined just a few minutes later for the second goal with Lia this

time returning the favour - his cross from the right was met by McDonald with a glancing header that left the UAE goalkeeper with no chance.

National Team assistant coach Graham Arnold, who will assist National Youth coach Ange Postecoglou at the World Youth Championships starting in late November, was in a buoyant mood after the game.

"The match went very well," said Arnold. "We struggled in the first game a little bit, but that was because the team had not played together for a long time."

"However in the second game the cohesion was much better and to be honest the result flattered the home team and we could have won by more if we had finished our chances off."

"It was a good result, but there is still a lot improvement in us. The fact we were able to dominate them in the conditions we were playing

and in only our second game will serve us in good stead for the World Championships."

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou announced Australia's squad that will compete at the 2003 FIFA World Cup to be held next month in the UAE. The squad features six overseas based players and 14 players from the National Soccer League.

The only new face in the squad is Newcastle United midfielder Jobe Wheelhouse with all other players having played for the Qantas Young Socceroos during the Oceania qualifying campaign last December, or last week's two-match tour of the United Arab Emirates.

The 20-man Australian Under-20 Squad is:

Goalkeepers:
Nathan Coe (Inter Milan, Italy), Tom Willis (Newcastle United)
Defenders:
Alex Wilkinson (Northern Spirit), Mark Milligan

(Northern Spirit), David Tarka (Nottingham Forest, England), Wayne Heath (Brisbane Strikers), Steve Pantelidis (Melbourne Knights)

Midfielders:
Spase Dilevski (Rot Weiss Essen, Germany), Massimo Murococa (South Melbourne), Carl Valeri (Inter Milan, Italy), Matthew McKay (Brisbane Strikers), Jobe Wheelhouse (Newcastle United), Jonathon Richter (Northern Spirit), Dustin Wells (Wollongong Wolves), Vince Lia (South Melbourne), Mile Jedinak (Varteks, Croatia), Anthony Danze (Perth Glory)

Forwards:
Scott McDonald (Wimbledon, England), Alex Brosque (Marconi Stallions), Michael Baird (Sydney Olympic)
Stand-by Players:
David Carney (Dunfermline, Scotland), Mitchell Johnson (Newcastle United), Franco Parisi

(Sydney United)
Prior to the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship the Qantas Young Socceroos will compete in a four team tournament in South Korea with matches against Colombia, Slovakia and the host nation, before a final match in Japan completes the pre-tournament schedule.

The full tour itinerary is as follows:

Sunday 2 November - Australian based players depart
Tuesday 4 November (4.30pm) - Australia v Colombia, Suwon, South Korea (4 Nation Tournament)
Thursday 6 November (4.30pm) - Australia v Slovakia, Suwon, South

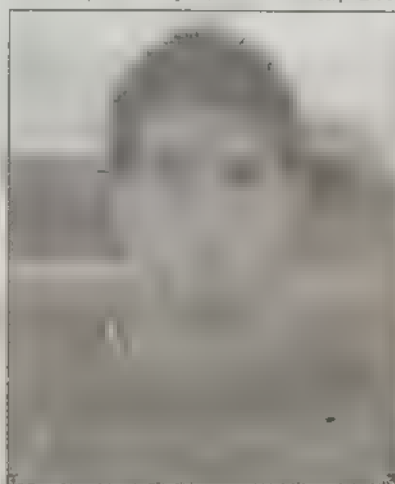
Korea (4 Nation Tournament)
Saturday 8 November (3pm) - South Korea v Australia, Suwon, South Korea (4 Nation Tournament)
Wednesday 12 November - Japan v Australia, Japan (Friendly International)
Friday 28 November (8.30pm) - Australia v Czech Republic, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship)
Monday 1 December (5.45pm) - Australia v Canada, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship)
Thursday 4 December (5.45pm) - Australia v Brazil, Dubai, United Arab

Emirates (FIFA World Youth Championship)
(NB all times are local time)

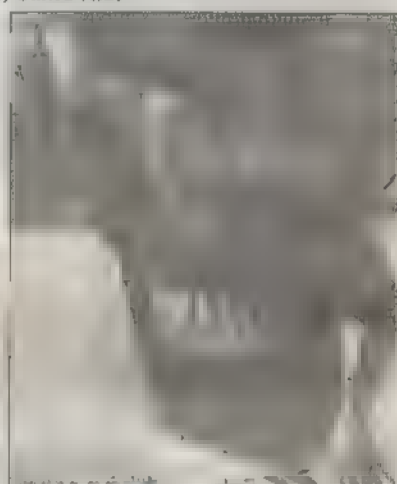
The 24-team tournament will be held between November 27 - December 19 with Australia's Group (Group C) to be played entirely in the Northern city of Dubai.

Australia qualified for the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship after winning the Oceania qualifying tournament in December last year.

The 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship was initially due to be held in March/April but was postponed due to the situation in the Middle East at the time.



Vince Lia scored the first goal for the Young Socceroos in their two-nil win over the UAE.



Marconi striker Alex Brosque will be part of the 20-man squad in the UAE next month.

Player Focus - Massimo Murococa



Bound for more glory - South Melbourne's promising young star Massimo Murococa.

By Michael Tsoukalas

1) A quick roundup of your career Mass, where have you played?

I started playing at the age of 7 at Region Bulla; I stayed there for 6 years and moved to Fawkner at the age of 13 after Bulla went bankrupt. I stayed at Fawkner for 2 years were at that time I was spotted by Jeff Oliver who took me to Carlton, after Carlton went under Jeff brought me to South.

2) Representative honours?

Players (for the Joeys) are looked at from the age of 15, so between the ages 15-16 I was playing for the Vic representative team. At 17 I made the Joeys squad but was unfortunate to miss the world cup after breaking my foot in a

fixture for my high school team. Naturally it was a very disappointing moment for both myself and my family, however as a result I definitely came away from the experience far stronger.

3) How did your trial with Sporting of Portugal in the off-season go?

Very well I trained with the reserve team, so basically with players who were 21-22 years of age.

I spent two weeks at the club and initially struggled with the change of pace and technical approach to the game, however, as the trial progressed I greatly improved, so much so, that Sporting wanted me to stay, they did however have severe economic problems at the time so I was offered a place at my own expense.

After considering the offer personally and with my family I just felt that I was too young to make such a commitment in a foreign land, and would just favor staying at South for the time being.

4) Watching preseason it seems that you've come back with much more confidence, do you feel that way?

Definitely, my time at Sporting gave me great confidence, as an 18-year old being able to hold my own with the future players of such a great club has definitely reflected in my appearances back home.

Having the Sporting coach come up to me and say "you've improved and I want you to stay" did wonders for my confidence as a player.

5) What are your aims for the future, be it short or long term?

Well for the short-term future I hope to impress Ange Postecoglou enough so I can comfortably command a position in his starting 11.

With the youth World Cup coming up I hope that consistent form for South will hopefully translate into a starting 11 position (for the Young Socceroos). After that hopefully we can do well in the tournament and if I manage to impress it'd be great to be picked up by a club in Europe.

6) How do you think South will fare this season? Is it the best South side you've played with?

I think we'll do quite well, there's camaraderie at the place that hasn't been at the club since I've been there.

All the players are very close off the field and there's no negativity between the players for petty reasons such as the age differences of the players in the squad.

Playing wise it's still early days and hence very hard to say, however, we definitely possess a great deal of quality so I'd be definitely leaning - albeit at an early stage - to say yes.

7) Finally, any messages for the fans?

Over the past few seasons I feel that support for our team has been dropping off, I'd just like to tell the supporters that this season we have a great bunch of lads down at the club, the environment is the best it's been since I've been at the place and I have no doubt that we'll be able to play great football at Bob Jane Stadium this season.

I feel we're one of the best teams in the NSL.

Players Support Task at Hand

The PFA threw its support behind the Australian Soccer Association (ASA) announcement that a task force has been formed to consider the model for a new National League.

Further to the recent significant developments within the sport the PFA's Chief Executive Rob Anderson welcomed the news of the establishment of the task force and has endorsed the initiatives and approach of the ASA Board.

"What has impressed us the most about the new board is not merely the decisions they have made but more importantly the deliberate way in which they have gone about their business. It is this type of considered approach, which not only gives the player's confidence but will undoubtedly provide confidence to all stakeholders and potential investors in

the model for a new league. "There is no doubt that the health of the Game in this country will largely be assessed by the performance of the national competition and it is critical that the ASA Board's task force gets this right."



In our opinion the nominated members of the task force comprise a good cross-section of perspectives and experience and we are confident that they will be able to deliver a model which pro-

vides for sustained success that will benefit all stakeholders," said Anderson.

The PFA also highlighted the significant contribution of players in producing the Australian Premier League as a model for the task force to consider.

"Clearly the players have been very committed to the issue of reforming the national competition and are genuinely excited about the opportunities that exist under the APL model."

The players view the APL model as having the ability to create an environment within this country where they and future players can achieve both their career and personal ambitions. With this in mind the PFA looks forward to the opportunity of being invited to present the extensive and detailed research which underpins the Australian Premier League concept," Anderson said.

Andrew Orsatti Explains All PART 1



By Daniela Raco

Each week on SBS a team of experts, headed by ANDREW ORSATTI look at the issues of the week in the world game and discuss the hot topics surrounding the National Soccer League, reviewing and previewing the weekend matches.

This week in ABSW I sit down with the seasoned presenter and reporter, and begin by asking Andrew, a man so adept at hosting guest forums, what it's like to be the subject of an interview.

DR: Firstly, What's it like being on the receiving end of an interview?

It's nice to talk about something you love. All of this feels comfortable.

DR: You showed promise as a junior with former National Soccer League club A.P.I.A., and were offered a trial with Italian side Pescara at the age of 17. However 18 months after your first trial, you suffered a serious knee injury which effectively ended your soccer career. Was this the bitter blow that ended your dream of playing European football?

Was it bitter? ... Of course. You set aside your life to try to fulfill everything you've dreamt of, and to see it taken away with very little you can do about it is heartbreaking. On the other hand you learn a lot from it and it's helped me get to where I am today. I think the game over there compared to here was a massive wake-up call anyway.

For me just to get there and have a brief experience there was a great privilege because it has taught me so much and given me the kind of privilege I know a lot of Australia's youngsters won't have. It's something I still cherish. At the end of the day, I know I poured my heart and soul into trying to be a footballer. You come to realize that you're not indestructible, and you're not always going to be injury free. Sometimes it happens at the worst possible time, but you just have to get on with your life.

DR: How did your career in television begin?

It started when I came back from overseas. I took the initiative to at least give myself a tertiary background in the study of Journalism. I spent some time refining my skills.

At the end of 1995, after a year of

studying, I started to look for work experience and approached SBS because it was a natural progression to stay involved in football.

SBS was a natural vehicle for that. It worked out well at the time because they were looking for people.

DR: Can you describe the pressures of live TV?

I can recall my first experience about six months after I joined SBS and it was the Toyota World Sports show, which is a national program, I was very nervous.

I was thrown into the deep end at the age of 21. I thought the microphone would pick up my heart beat. I'm the kind of person who perspires a bit as well.

It was nerve-racking, but it was also what I wanted to do. I never really once focused my energy to being an on-camera presenter, it was just another test.

This is now seven and a half years later that we are talking, and I still can't be complacent. At any stage on live television anything can happen. It's an ever-changing environment.

I prefer it live because it keeps you sharp and makes you always think about what's next, and where you're going. You don't have the luxury of making a mistake in a pre-recorded segment, and then starting again.

You constantly push yourself to be better. It comes naturally now. I like to meditate before segments and breathe and close my eyes.

I think about what I want to achieve. Relaxation is important. You pour a lot of energy into what you do. When you walk away you're on a massive high, like an adrenaline rush.

When you get home, you almost crash because throughout the day you pour so much energy into trying to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. At the end of the day I feel almost drained. Live television does that to you, but it's also a great buzz especially talking about what you love.

the host.

Another time I walked into the control room after the show and I looked to my left and I saw a key, and I was wondering what this key did, so I switched it. It turned out all the lights in the studio. Everyone went crazy, because they take forever to warm up.

DR: What is your most memorable soccer moment?

Stepping on the field for the first time in Italy I was very, very nervous. Intimidated, but very excited. The challenge was so huge over there.

It taught me to grow straight away. As soon as the ball came to me I felt like a fool, clumsy almost.



Orsatti has been likened to Italian superstar Christian Vieri - look wise!!!

DR: Rate your current-day soccer skills out of 10.

My current skills and understanding of the game is better than when I played. My touch is a lot finer, because I seem to understand the ball better and the game in general.

However, after five knee operations and as the years get on, I'm beginning to feel the pain now more and more.

Winters are becoming nightmares. I walk around and feel the arthritis already I play a game and walk off the pitch and it takes me a week and a half to recover. As a 28 year old that gets on my nerves. But when I go out there, for that brief moment, I really enjoy it.

It definitely gets better with age. I feel comfortable with the ball, and if I was as quick and as fit as before I'd be firing with all cylinders.

DR: Is it true you graced the same soccer fields as Christian Vieri as a junior?

I think a lot of Australian's graced the same fields as Christian Vieri as a junior. He played at Marconi for a while, and a lot of kids that came through the youth system spent some time there.

—Also I went to Torino for a trial, and he also went there. At Pescara, the club I spent some time with in Italy, was a Serie A club at the time and Vieri may have spent some time there.

I'm sure we've run across the same blades of grass at some stage, but certainly not bounced into each other at that level that's for sure. I know we definitely bumped into each other at a younger age but without knowing.

I found some video evidence recently in a pre-match Marconi entertainment package against Apia and we spotted him. It's great to look back on it now.

DR: How has the climate of the game been affected by FIFA's back flip and

alliance between Europe and South America to overthrow us, what it has done is brought a few things into focus.

That is, our inability to maintain stability in the region, to be better organised, and show some political clout. It is the normal practice of a big business. The rest of the world has always viewed us as a lightweight in that regard.

Hence, we have always been the political whipping boys. Indirectly, Oceania losing its sport has made its focus on the management of the game, and the better preparation of the team in order to get them there.

DR: Is the game moving in the right direction?

Definitely. I have never been more confident than I am now. I have worked eight years as a journalist and before that, would follow it closely as a kid growing up because my father was the Chairman of National Soccer League club Apia back in the late '80's and early '90's, so I was very much part of it.

I was always floating about and hearing his conversations with the big players at the time. I also got to see all the disappointment that came with that as well.

The game in this country will continue to grow, even after Frank Lowy has gone. What we see now is the planting of the seed; the rest is down the track.

We have to be optimistic about it, because we have been cynical for too long. It has taken a massive change like this to get us to believe again ... it has for me. I'm not going to sit here and say this is just another hollow promise, I really believe we have turned the corner.

DR: How do we promote soccer on a commercial channel?

The product needs to be available here. We need to move away from the predominant Anglo-Saxon belief that everything great about our players comes out of England, because we have so many players doing so many good things around the world.

Harry Kewell scores in a 3-1 defeat against whoever and it would make news because Harry Kewell scored, but Bresciano scores two goals for Parma away to Lazio in a big-upset win in Italy and it doesn't even rate a mention.

We have this belief that everything English is bigger and better. The commercial value of this game is seen elsewhere, why can't it be seen here?

There is an element over all the years that I've seen that has developed in terms of racism, wanting to keep away from the game because it is too much of a political hot potato.

This type of thinking I believe is still evident today.

The game has grown far beyond that. We have genuine stars around the world and they sometimes can't get coverage. They deserve more, and commercial channels have a responsibility to show fair coverage.

How do we get it on the television? Let's be honest, unless the local game is thriving and unless we start to do well on the international level by qualifying for a World Cup which would be a massive boost, and we've heard everyone say it before but the reality is that Australians like winners, and if we're not winners they'll bury us, usually ten pages into the

*The game in this country will continue to grow, even after Frank Lowy has gone.
What we see now is the planting of the seed;
the rest is down the track - Andrew Orsatti*

DR: There is always a risk with live TV. Fess up. What are some of your biggest bloopers?

The funniest thing probably, and they all joke about it at SBS, is not really something that happened to me on air. I was hosting a segment for the Tour de France, and I was so driven and focused on what we had to do and I just thought, okay... we are just going to walk into this studio and this is where we're going to start.

So my guests and I sat down and I looked around and all the cameras had the covers on them and the lights were on, and I just thought that they'll be here soon.

We weren't too far away from the broadcast, and everyone was running around the building looking for us. I'm sitting in the wrong studio, convinced they'll turn up at some stage. I created mayhem, they couldn't find the guests or

It's very intimidating because there are lots of talented people around you and very firm-minded coaches who know specifically what they want and you almost try to fit into that.

I went out there and thought this is the start of something that could potentially be very big, and you could feel that.

It was beautiful because it was an adventure that had no conclusive end, and you just enjoy the journey.

Coming from overseas you almost take the place of a local, so there is a lot of jealousy and it gets a bit competitive. I copped a few hits, but I gave them back even harder.

Also, for a defender scoring a rare goal is very nice. I was on a tour of South-East Asia with the NSW schoolboys and I scored a winner in the last five minutes. You almost feel like you've added a real contribution that way.

the political maneuvering in withdrawing Oceania's direct qualification path for the 2006 World Cup?

From an Australian perspective, because there is obviously a varying view around the region, it has put a lot of focus onto us and how we should better manage ourselves.

In a way it is almost a godsend, because what it has helped us push along is a better management of the game, through lots of areas: the government enquiries, the introduction of Frank Lowy and his team.

All of these things are sometimes the direct result of continual disappointment. When there was that back flip and some of the reasons were attributed to the bad management of the old Soccer Australia, and other reasons such as New Zealand's poor performance at the Confederation Cup, and the fact that there was an

Andrew Orsatti Explains All PART 2

newspaper, or a brief mention when the National team plays.

But, why doesn't it make the back pages? When our country takes on the world in the world's greatest game it's worth reading about. Until we start to do well and get our own house in order then why should the commercials follow us?

Up until now we have been our own worst enemy. When we start to do things properly the commercials will get on board.

DR: Is Australian soccer made up of sport lovers rather than soccer lovers?

When the Nation plays it's made up of sport lovers, when the National League plays it's made up of soccer lovers. Without a doubt the country gets behind Australia when it plays in a World Cup qualifier.

The National League is much more of a hard-core following. It's more of a passionate, fanatical following. I mean that in a good way.

A fanatic is someone who dedicates their love for the game to one club, and makes it tribal. That's the way it should be. That's the way it is the world over.

Australian's like sport in general, but soccer has failed to capture the imagination for many reasons.

You have seen more come on board because of the World Cup that was screened prime-time last year and other events that are giving people a greater understanding of the game. SBS has been pushing that message for some 20 years now.

DR: What's the difference between a fanatical AFL supporter and a passionate soccer supporter in Italy?

Essentially it's the same thing but they dedicate a lot of energy in terms of how they can best support their team. It's very choreographed in Italy, and almost very structured.

To be part of a hard-core supporters group in Italy means many things. It means learning the slogans to so many different songs, painting banners in the crowd where 20,000 people are choreographed to form one colour. It's a lifetime pursuit, their job almost.

It's the way they go about following their team that is so different. I'm sure it's the same in Australia, but I don't see it being like that.

In Italy they live and breathe the game. It's in your face, even if you don't like the game. Italians are passionate about so many things, about life, food, style etc.

They know they're good as well, almost arrogant about knowing how good they are. It's part of their cultural make-up. You need to understand the culture first before you judge it. Italians pour that out into the stadium; they are almost in tears because they love the game.

It spills over in emotion. I haven't seen evidence that that's where we're at here, apart from when we lose a match.

DR: Are football and politics inextricably linked?

Yes, 100 per cent. In football, John Howard could walk into the office of Jacques Chirac in France and have respect. I don't think Jacques Chirac stands there shaking his hand saying that was a great

cricket win over Zimbabwe.

I say this with the knowledge that it is true. If Australia was doing well it would open up all sorts of political doors for our Prime Minister and for this country in general.

It's a game that is respected the world over. Football is a very strong vehicle for business and takes us to all sorts of places.

People can roll a sock into a ball and play the game. It doesn't take much to play the game, but the game can offer so much

DR: What league do you rate as the world's best?

The top three for me are Spain, Italy, and England. Not necessarily in that order. I like the ferocious pace of England, I like the technical approach of Italy, and I like the fact that Spain is a mix between the two.

For different reasons I like all three. But, I'm leaning towards Spain at the moment. Mentally, I think they're the toughest to beat. It's a great competition. And Spain is probably the best. We are seeing that already this season with Valencia having beaten Madrid and Barcelona in consecutive weeks.

They went to the top of the League and won five in a row. It's a high technical League, fast paced, with a good spread of quality in the teams that makes each match a fiercely competitive one.

DR: Any early predictions for season 2003-2004?

We need to move away from the predominant Anglo-Saxon belief that everything great about our players comes out of England, because we have so many players doing so many good things around the world. Harry Kewell scores in a 3-1 defeat against whoever and it would make news because Harry Kewell scored, but Bresciano scores two goals for Parma away to Lazio in a big-upset win in Italy and it doesn't even rate a mention - Andrew Orsatti

There are the obvious choices of Perth Glory the defending Champions, and Parramatta Power because of their massive recruitment in the off-season.

There is also that unknown quantity in that the rest of the teams have chopped a lot of their players and are starting at similar stages, bringing in a few experienced and younger players. It will be interesting to see which of those teams will settle quickly and form a challenge.

For me the outsider is Marconi, because they've done well in their recruitment and have a solid squad based on last season.

I think Perth still has the edge. They have proved year-in-year-out that they're the team to beat. It's a bit too much of a tall order for Parramatta to get it all



Australian soccer's current fresh face on the television screen - Andrew Orsatti.

together in their first season to really produce something special.

It's easy to rock up to the field with big name players, and pull out the cheque book. It's a different game all together to get them flowing in a system which makes them competitive on the park. Perth has enough clout to win it, and Marconi has enough pedigree to cause a lot of problems.

I think I've done that deliberately. That reflects much of me, because there is a lot of difference in my life. I don't like to be close minded and keep myself restricted to one thing. I'm very spontaneous; I don't like to be structured. I like to enjoy the mystery of what's around the corner.

DR: What do you make of the rumors that you're the suave, nightclub-casanova, that has graced the pages of Cleo

dence sweeps away the reality that I can be shy. You put on a different front to ignore what's real sometimes.

You just want to step out of yourself sometimes and enjoy a different you. The Cleo thing was a bit of fun in 1999. I'm planning my run to make a comeback in the next few years!

DR: Best hangover cure?

Bacon and eggs, and water for the rest of the day.

DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?

Christian Vieri.

DR: What is your favourite late night snack?

Cherry-ripe with milk, and pizza is a favourite take-away.

DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?



Les Murray: SBS' Mr Soccer has been fine tuning Orsatti's skills.

I like a blue-swimmer crab pasta sauce, and different meat dishes. Simple things. It's something I always want to learn more about.

For a long time I've been eating to live, not living to eat, and I want to start to reverse that.

I love spending time cooking. It's therapeutic. I love experimenting, and I've had some disasters as you can appreciate.

DR: How would you spend your last \$50?

On a ticket to a football match - A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt vs. Toscana.

magazine as one of Australia's 50 Most Eligible bachelors?

I wish I could believe that. I'm very modest. I don't know how people view me from the outside sometimes. I just get on with being who I am. Sometimes that leads to all sorts of mayhem when I'm out and about. It's fun.

It's nice to see people take notice and say things in a strange way. It makes me look at it and have a laugh.

Being on a show like The World Game and being on SBS, people always have a view of your style and your delivery and whether they like you or hate you, and there are a lot of both.

Am I a Casanova? Probably not. I consider myself to be shy. The confi-

DR: What do you do in your "down-time"?

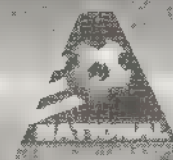
Close my eyes, listen to music, go for walks. I take time out and grab coffees with friends. I socialise a lot, and go dining at various restaurants. I like to go out and party with friends. My friends are really important to me, so I spend a lot of time with them.

Obviously I've narrowed it down to people I enjoy the most. From that comes a lot of joy, and there are a lot of derivatives from that because you go to see lots of concerts, films, festivals, or take trips I went to see the solar eclipse at the start of the year.

I've got an eclectic mix of friends and



National Soccer League



After Round 6	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
PERTH GLORY	5	4	1	0	1	13	5	13	1	1	0	0	3	0	4	3	1	0	10	4		
PARRAMATTA POWER	6	3	2	0	0	9	3	11	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	2	1	0	5	2		
MARCONI STALLIONS	6	3	2	1	0	9	7	11	4	2	1	1	6	5	2	1	1	0	3	2		
NEWCASTLE UTD	7	3	2	2	0	11	11	11	4	2	1	1	7	5	2	1	1	1	4	6		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	5	2	2	1	1	8	2	8	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	1	2	0	4	0		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	5	2	2	1	1	5	3	8	2	0	2	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	4	2		
SYDNEY UNITED	5	2	1	2	1	3	4	7	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	1		
ADELAIDE UNITED	2	2	0	0	1	4	2	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	6	2	0	4	0	11	12	6	3	1	0	2	8	8	3	1	0	2	3	4		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	5	1	1	3	0	4	8	9	3	0	1	2	2	4	2	1	0	1	2	4		
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	5	1	1	3	0	3	9	7	3	1	0	2	2	4	2	0	1	1	1	5		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	5	1	0	4	1	3	10	5	2	0	0	2	0	5	3	1	0	2	3	5		
FOOTBALL KINGZ	5	0	0	5	0	5	13	5	3	0	0	3	3	8	2	0	0	2	2	6		

NEWCASTLE UNITED 2
(G Owens 16', R Griffiths 61')

ADELAIDE UNITED 3
(C Veart 64' pen, 78', A Vidmar 73')

Referee: Con Diomis. Crowd: 3,005. Venue: EnergyAustralia Stadium.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Perosh, A Griffiths, Thomas (Wolffenden 78'), Owens, Wilson (Libbesson 83'), R Griffiths, Johnson Mitchell, Wheelhouse, Masi, Brown.

Subs Not Used: McPherson, Willis (gk).

ADELAIDE UNITED: Scarsella, Alagich, Rees, Goulding, Valkanis, Aloisi, Veart, Vidmar (Pellegriano 83'), Lozanovski (Terminello 65'), Demourtzidis (Saric 62'), Kemp.

Subs Not Used: Bajic (gk).

Cautions: J Mitchell (NU) 27', S Thomas (NU) 75', M Saric (AU) 70'.

MARCONI STALLIONS 1
(E Anabalon 46')

PARRAMATTA POWER 2
(J Buonavoglia 33', M Thompson 76')

Referee: Perry Mur. Crowd: 2,040. Venue: Marconi Stadium.

Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Costanzo, Last, Gibson, Spiteri, Maloney, Brodie, Harris (McDonald 79'), Carle, Renaud (Thwaite 86'), Anabalon (Severino 89').

Subs Not Used: Alogdellis (gk).

PARRAMATTA POWER: Bolton, Durante (Sobczyk 43'), Ceccoli, Colosimo, Beauchamp, Thompson (Zorbas 77'), Dodd (Pantelis 72'), Gumprecht, Milicic, Buonavoglia, Elrich.

Subs Not Used: Vukovic (gk).

Cautions: J Spiteri (MS) 28', A Gumprecht (PP) 89'.

Red Cards: B Maloney (MS) 42'.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1
(D Macallister 2')

Referee: Ben Williams. Crowd: 2,900. Venue: Knights Stadium

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** John, R Vargas, Kovacic, Marth, Razov, Erdogan (Zilic 80'), A Vargas, Fa'Arado (Sabljak 65'), Pelikan Pantelidis (Oksuz 75'), Waite.

Subs Not Used: Hrehoresin (gk).

NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Watts, O'Sullivan, Spencer, Ferguson (Tomasevic 92'), Kwasnik (Groves 73'), Macallister (Osman 84'), Richter, Hutchinson, Wilkinson, Milligan.

Subs Not Used: Page (gk).

Cautions: S Pantelidis (MK) 27', A Pelikan (MK) 71', A Vargas (MK) 92', D Macallister (NS) 23', N Spencer (NS) 92'.

Wollongong Wolves VS Football Kingz

(Rescheduled 19-1-04)

due to unavailability of WIN Stadium.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

PERTH GLORY 2
(D Mori 37', 76')

Referee: Simon Prydzacz. Crowd: 3,383. Venue: OKI Jubilee Oval.

Teams: **SYDNEY OLYMPIC:** Moss, Souris, Kohler, Schirripa (Karavatakis 63'), Fyfe, Cardozo, Alilovic (Browne 65'), Bakis (Karlovic 85'), Baird, Ishida, Caravelia.

Subs Not Used: Emmanouil (gk).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley, Hassell (Bingley 83'), Murphy, Srhoj (Caceres 61'), Despotovski, North, Byrnes, Pondeljaj, Mon (Faria 80'), Coyne.

Subs Not Used: Matassa (gk).

Cautions: W Srhoj (PG) 20', B Hassell (PG) 70'.

SYDNEY UNITED 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Referee: Craig Zetter. Crowd: 2,691. Venue: Sydney United SC

Teams: **SYDNEY UNITED:** Reddy, Haliti (Ozbey 73'), Cunico, Vrkic, Huxley, Parisi, Collina, Ivanic (Markovic 85'), Rudan, Doumanis, Filipovic.

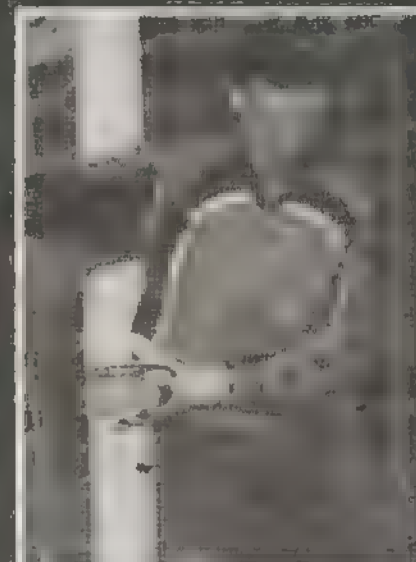
Subs Not Used: Zmire, Necevski (gk).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Galekovic, Storey, Kovacevic, Coveny (Sarkies 83'), Boutsianis, Stergiopoulos, Lia (Tunbridge 81'), Laurie, Murdoch, Curcija (Trnmboli 66').

Subs Not Used: Theoklitos (gk).

Cautions: D Huxley (SU) 37', J Vrkic (SU) 54', M Filipovic (SU) 64', L Haliti (SU) 69', M Rudan (SU) 75', M Cunico (SU) 77', S Storey (SM) 19', S Poutakidis (SM) 41', A Kovacevic (SM) 53', V Lia (SM) 59', S Tunbridge (SM) 85'.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Northern Spirit's Paul Henderson collected this week's ABSW player of the week after a tremendous goalkeeping performance against the Knights last week.

Hendo pulled off a penalty save from Anthony Pelikan in the 85th minute to gift the Spirit the three points.

ROUND 7

Sat 1-11-03

Brisbane Strikers vs Newcastle United

Sun 2-11-03

Adelaide United vs Sydney United
Parramatta Power vs Perth Glory
Sydney Olympic vs Melbourne Knights
Northern Spirit vs Wollongong Wolves
South Melbourne vs Marconi Stallions
Football Kingz - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	5
COVENY Vaughan	Sth Melbourne	5
DODD Travis	Parramatta Power	4
MALONEY Brad	Marconi Stallions	3
NGATA Heremai	Football Kingz	3
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights	3
PONDELJAK Tom	Perth Glory	3
WHEELHOUSE Iobe	Newcastle United	3
VEART Car.	Adelaide United	3

BYE - BRISBANE



Superstar Profile #3

Name: Ruud van Nistelrooy
D.O.B: 1/7/76
Nationality: Dutch
City of Birth: Oss - Holland
Weight: 79.37 kg
Height: 6ft 2'
Team: Manchester United

Greece 2003

er Bank



Back Row (L-R)
 Angelos Charisteas, Kostas Konstantinidis, Nikos Dabizas, Sotiris Kyrgiakos, Antonis Nikopolidis, Vassilis Tsiartas.
 Front Row (L-R)
 Stylianos Giannakopoulos, Stelios Venetidis, Demis Nikolaidis, Theodoros Zagorakis, Giorgios Karagounis.

SOCCER

from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

YOUNG SOCCEROOS CHOSEN

You may well have seen it by now, if not the whole U20 squad is shown on page 12, Coach Ange Postecoglou has selected his team for their World Cup clash in the UAE on the 27 of November.

The 20-man squad will depart on the 2nd of November where they will undertake a good hit-out before the 'the real thing' in a 4 nations tournament held in Korea.

South Korea, Slovakia and Colombia will all take part in the tournament while a friendly match against the Japanese has also been organized to help the Aussie's plight in the UAE.

Having been seeded in a tough group with the Czech Republic, Canada and Brazil all the Australians opponents, Postecoglou has drawn together some stern and fair opposition.

Like in any squad, many surprises were seen in the selection of the U20's, Spirit defender Mark Milligan, Melbourne Knights youngster Steve Pantelidis and Varteks midfielder Mile Jedinak all made the final cut-off.

The trio of players represented Australia for the first time in their two friendly hit-outs against the UAE and did enough in those two games to stake a claim in the final 20-squad.

Northern Spirit, Newcastle United and South Melbourne can hold their heads up very high after the news of two or more of their players had made the side.

Lawrie McKinna's men had a trio of stars aside from Milligan, Alex Wilkinson and Jonathon Richter both got the nod while Newcastle had keeper Tom Willis and Jobe Wheelhouse and finally South players Vince Lia and Massimo Muroccca too got the okay from Postecoglou.

As happy as these clubs will be, they will also be a missing link as many of these players have played an integral role in their respective National League sides.

Out of the 20 man squad, eleven players selected (Coe, Milligan, Tarka, Heath, Valeri, McKay, Wheelhouse, Richter, Wells, Danze and Brosque) have all come through the successful ranks of Australia's elite Australian Institute of Sport coached by former Socceroo Steve 'Rocky' O'Connor.

Let's hope the squad does the nation proud in pulling in credible results - a replay of what happened in the last U17's campaign in Finland is certainly something many Australian soccer pundits hope will not repeat itself.

Olympic's Crowds

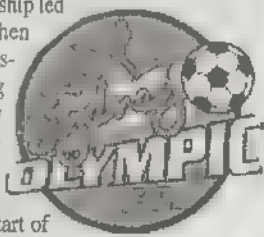
Under the new leadership led by President Stephen Kamper and also successful businessman Greg Gavrilidis, Sydney Olympic have certainly proved many critics wrong in pulling in decent crowds for the start of the National League season.

After having spent a number of dollars on their last move to the Sutherland Shire region along with an extensive list of elite players, this season the club has seen its budget drop immensely.

However, even when the club did have the makings of a quality squad with great results and players, the crowds simply did not turn up.

Enter 2003/04, back to its old name, new players (Some of which have done rather well up to this stage) new ground and a new behind-the-scenes team and already we've seen a massive difference.

The marketing group led by Theo Fotopoulos have done a great job in bringing back the crowds to their new found home OKI Jubilee Oval. All that is needed now is some decent run of results to keep the bar rising. The club itself is organizing a get together on the 8th of November at the Venus Reception Lounge in Kogarah as part of its bid to broaden its ties with its supporters. Kicking off at 7PM, tickets can be purchased at the club on 9560 4032.



FARINA WILD ABOUT GERARD

Australia coach Frank Farina is said to be "delighted" by the prospect of Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier becoming the country's new technical director. Sources close to the Socceroos coach have told tribefootball.com that Farina is keen to have an appropriately qualified technical director and has previously championed the claims of his former assistant coach at the AIS, Ron Smith.

Though the chance of landing Houllier is a long-shot for the Australian Soccer Association, Farina believes in the Frenchman, Australia would have someone of world standing and a proven track record in football development - and someone with whom Farina, himself, has a strong relationship.

Through his playing days in Belgium and France in the early 1990's, Farina struck up a friendship with Houllier and worked closely with the Liverpool boss while Houllier was on FIFA's technical committee at the 2001 Confederations Cup.

The most exciting development for Farina is that the ASA are serious about bringing in a top-level coach as Australia's technical director, something which he has been keen to see introduced since his appointment as Socceroos coach.

SARKIES AND LEIJER - FUTURE STARS

Keep these two names in your notebooks, youngsters Kristian Sarkies and Adrian Leijer are definitely ones to watch out for in this year's National League.

Both have had the honor of representing their country at U17 level in Finland and both have been stated by both their respective coaches in the National League that they do have a future in the game.

Sarkies, a sterling 17-year-old midfielder certainly came of age during his first start for South Melbourne in their match against Newcastle United two weeks ago.

Kristian was busily running the midfield, and at 17, took control and the ball into his own hands.

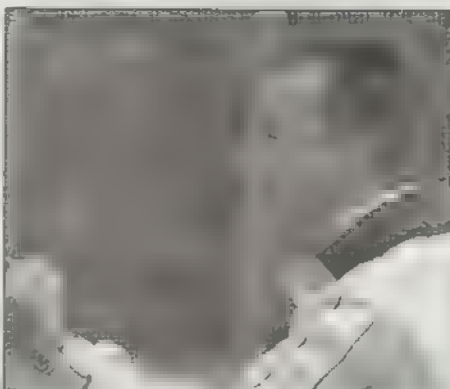
It's been thanks to the help of South veteran mid-

fielder Paul Trimboli that has seen the likes of Sarkies improve their games for the better.

Another player on the same scale has been big Melbourne Knights defender Adrian Leijer.

The tough stopper will fair more frequently in Ian Dobson's side this year after 20-year-old defender Daniel Piorkowski was ruled out for the year due to a knee injury he picked up in the U20's friendly game against the UAE.

SPIRIT HIGH AT STALLIONS



Goaaaal!!!!
JP celebrates
(Photo By Con Poulos)

A word of warning to anyone that plays the Marconi Stallions - they do pack a painful bite. New coach JP has primed his chargers well for the new season and from indications, the club is going from strength to strength. You can tell JP is enjoying himself as shown in the photo below, well done JP!

HAIRDRESSER BY DAY, SOCCER PLAYER BY NIGHT

Sydney Olympic's gifted midfielder Zenon Caravella is a player that not too many National League stars can compare with.

Apart from tearing up defences across Australia with his sheer pace and skill, Caravella has also spun up another trick of the trade - the scissors.

Working in the inner city, Caravella has been

known for his new hairstyle designs.

No guesses as to who will win this year's most prim and proper award in terms of the locks.

ADELAIDE IS ALIVE

The crowd at Adelaide United's first match - 15,568 - was Adelaide's second highest attendance for a non-finals match, and the biggest NSL regular season crowd since April 2001 (Perth Glory v Parramatta Power 16,422).

TOP 5 NSL REGULAR SEASON CROWDS, ADELAIDE

16251	West Adelaide v Adelaide City, Hindmarsh Stadium 27.08.78
15568	Adelaide United v Brisbane Strikers, Hindmarsh Stadium 17.10.03
13132	Adelaide City v Marconi Stallions, Olympic Sports Field 03.07.77
13051	Adelaide City v West Adelaide, Olympic Sports Field 28.05.78
13000	Adelaide City v West Adelaide, Hindmarsh Stadium 12.01.92

Adelaide United's first home game crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium was a sell-out, and with several thousand reportedly being unable to purchase a ticket, the NSL's regular season attendance record of 18,985 (Northern Spirit v Sydney Olympic, October 1998) may have been in sight had a bigger venue hosted the match.

Well done to Basil Scarsella and the rest of group in Adelaide - Soccer isn't dead - its only just started!!!

MEDIA BOOKS OUT AND ABOUT

THE official NSL season guide is now available for \$14.95 from the Australian Soccer Association (formerly Soccer Australia).

The 194-page guide, compiled by Adelaide-based statistician Andrew Howe, is crammed with information on the NSL and Australia's national teams.

1974 SOCCEROOS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS

Only weeks away from its huge celebration, 'the 30th Anniversary World Cup '74 Charity Dinner', already a number of tickets have been sold as part of a fundraiser for the Victor Chang Institute.

Soccer buffs, pencil the 13th of November in your diary's as organizer and former '74 coach Rale Rasic hosts the night along with funny man and the person responsible for the 'Falcon' in Rugby League Mario Fenech for a night not to forget with laughs supported by FAT PIZZA's 'Fully Sik' Tahir Bilgic.

Reminiscing what happened 30 years, the 1974 stars will be on show at the luxurious Le Montage Function Centre in Leichhardt where prizes and exclusive memorabilia will be out for auction.

Tickets for this must see event start from \$150-\$500 per person (Up to 10 to a table) and can be purchased through either Jeff Purser on 0408 401 076 or Ranko on 0407 665 122 so get your tickets soon before they sell out.

STOP PRESS: RADIO 98.5

Sydney ABSW Readers, for all the latest news and results on the National League and abroad, tune into 98.5 FM every Sunday evening's at 10PM for your weekly dose of football.

Led by ABSW's Italian and National League correspondent Joe Russo, 98.5's Italian correspondent Joseph Carlucci, English Premier League buff Stuart Jones and also ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis - opinions from these soccer experts have and will be voiced over live on air - Tune in to the real soccer station.

photooftheweek



A full-on action shot taken between the 10th and 11th of October, 2003, during the National League match between Sydney Olympic and Adelaide United. The photo captures the moment when Zenon Caravella is about to kick the ball.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS GRAND FINALS

5,000 Pack Valentine Park

A huge crowd showed up at Soccer New South Wales headquarters on Sunday for the Champion of Champions Grand Finals, again demonstrating the immense popularity of high-quality local league soccer.

Valentine Park was overflowing yesterday as thirty teams and thousands of spectators from Sydney and as far as Alstonville, Woolgoolga and Dubbo converged on Valentine Sports Park for an exciting finals day of top class soccer.

Having survived four rounds in the knockout tournament the top two teams in each age division played off yesterday for the prestigious Champion of Champions title.

Congratulations to all of the winners and runners-up on their achievement in reaching the Finals and on their successful performances and outstanding sportsmanship.

Brookvale Soccer Club won the prestigious All Age men's title, while Epping YMCA took the All Age Women's award with a decisive win.

Brookvale, flying the flag for the Manly-Warringah Soccer Association, defeated Gladesville-Hornsby's Normanhurst club in a keenly contested final.

The northern beaches team confirmed their reputation as one of the best non-state league clubs in the

crowd on Valentine Park's number one field.

The Men's Over 35's age group Grand Final saw the experienced Engadine Eagles return to Sutherland Shire happy, after taking out the final 2-1 against Chatswood Rangers.

Several of the Engadine side have picked up Champion of Champions medals in the past, with the core of this year's Over-35 squad taking out the All Age championship several years ago.

The men's Under-21 category also saw success for a team from Sutherland, with the boys from Loftus Yarrawarrah inflicting a heavy 4-0 defeat on Nepean representatives Blue Mountains.

Those from the Shire were also celebrating victory in the Under 18 Grand Final, as Como West Jannalli beat the strong St. Clair United team, also from Nepean.

In the Women's Under 16 competition, St Clair exacted some revenge on behalf of their association, with a crushing 4-1 defeat of Sutherland's Gympie United.

In the Women's Under 14 Final, two interesting country teams met in one of the day's best-supported fixtures on Valentine Park ground two.

The result was a narrow 1-0 win for Milton Ulladulla from the south coast over the north coast's Alstonville.

The Men's Under 17 Grand Final saw Macarthur's Camden Falcons score a slim 1-0 victory over Inter Lions of the Canterbury Soccer Association, and in the Under 16's Illawarra's Coniston Juniors beat Manly's Beacon Hill 4-0.

The Under 15 Grand Final saw another victory for the south coast, with Shell Harbour SC recording a 2-1 win over north coast's Woolgoolga on VSP ground one.

Two Sydney teams met in the Under 14 Grand Final, with Saints United of Gladesville-Hornsby defeating Canterbury's Strathfield SC, while Eagles United claimed the Under 13 boys title with a 2-0 win over Pennant Hills.

There was an even more emphatic win for Eagles United in the Under-12s, as they notched up a 6-2 win over Western Branch's Orana Spurs in the highest-scoring match of the day.

In the Under 12 Final, the boys from Oak Flats (Illawarra) enjoyed a solid 2-0 win over Wakehurst (Manly Warringah). Wakehurst also provided the 'Attack Sportswear' Ball Boys for the event.

Finally, Marconi Juniors triumphed in the Under 10 boys Grand Final, beating Figtree 4-0.

In all, it was a great illustration of the passion that soccer evokes across the state.

Playing standards were high, participation levels are up, and the future of the Champion of Champions is an exciting one.

Recognition must go to the referees from across



Brookvale take on Normanhurst in the Men's All Age Grand Final

NSW. Their efforts during the tournament and especially at the Finals day are to be commended.

Soccer NSW would also like to thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly and to our wonder-

ful sponsors from Attack Sportswear, Mitre, Lotto, Covo, Concord Insurance, Coca Cola, Instant Photos and Good Sports Photography who all contributed to ensuring the continued success of this event.

THE WINNERS

U14 Womens
U16 Womens
AA Womens
Under 10
Under 11
Under 12
Under 13
Under 14
Under 15
Under 16
Under 17
Under 18
Under 21
All Age Men
Over 35

Milton Ulladulla (Shoalhaven Association)
St Clair United (Nepean Association)
Epping YMCA (North West Sydney Womens Association)
Marconi Juniors (Southern Districts Association)
Oak Flats (Illawarra Association)
Eagles United (Southern Districts Association)
Eagles United (Southern Districts Association)
Saints United (Gladesville Hornsby Association)
Shell Harbour (Illawarra Association)
Coniston (Illawarra Association)
Camden Falcons (Macarthur Association)
Como West Jannali (Sutherland Association)
Loftus Yarrawarrah (Sutherland Association)
Brookvale (Manly Warringah Association)
Engadine Eagles (Sutherland Association)

St Clair United defeated Gympie 4-1 in the Women's Under 16 Grand Final

country, fielding a team packed with former representative players.

The likes of Kelvin Foster, Andrew and Steve Riches, Stuart Cleary and Rocco Papalia all have top line Super League experience, while Shamus Hayes is a former state junior and Jared Medhurst played for New Zealand in the Under-17 World Cup a few years back.

In the end they were just too strong for the gallant Normanhurst, steamrolling them 3-1 to claim a well-deserved title.

These two regions of Sydney met again in the Women's Final, with the reverse result: Epping YMCA hammered Pittwater 3-0 in an entertaining contest. The match was played out in front of a large



WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin
PRODUCTION: Mary Quardy
EDITOR: Ben Cubby
EDITOR-AT-LARGE: Adam Mark
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
All information is courtesy of SOCCER NSW

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BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

Stylish Bonnyrigg Look to Youth

By Paul Goodwin

Bonnyrigg White Eagles are all set for another great season. The former Premiers and Grand Final winners (twice, in 1992 and 1998) originally formed as Avala in 1968 and played at various grounds, all in the same area, until moving in at the Serbian Centre in 1991 and becoming Bonnyrigg White Eagles in 1994.

Coach Ljubet Jancev is readying his troops for action once again in 2003/4 and hopes for a better start to the campaign than last time.

He has lost Bobby Dragas and Michael Hawrysiuk to Wollongong, and Tayfun Devrimol, who is now trialling in Turkey, has been turning out for Sydney Crescent Star of late.

Javier Mancino and Johnny Ghiso, were two others to parade in the winter with Super League side AC United and David Harding, their former skipper, has skipped off to Canterbury. In addition Joe Bruni looks like settling in at Crescent Star and Fernando Greco will not be back until after the New Year, as he is currently in Argentina.

The club has signed Gem Akilli from

MSC Liverpool as back up as well as capturing Fraser Park's outstanding custodian, Steve Angelov, once of Wollongong, also at Parramatta Eagles, briefly, last term and with spells at Central Coast too. That pair should cover for Greco and keep the pressure on the veteran keeper for some time.

On the real it side, Jancev has retained Devrim Hussein, will get back from an injury lay off the skilful defender Askin Oygur and still has attacking player, Steve Knight, wide player Fernando Pellegrino, tough defender Mark D'Allesandro and striker Aaron Burgess to count on.

In addition he has brought in Scott Wells from Fraser Park to shore up the defence and captured the versatile Chris Fleming from Central Coast.

Former Lincoln City - and latterly

Macarthur and Fairfield Bulls' midfielder and defender Richard Harrison has made the move and his left-sided skills should prove invaluable.

There are also many others trialling with the club, including a New Zealander who featured with the strong Eastern Suburbs side in Auckland, this man a utility player.

The wily coach will continue to weigh up his options over the next seven days, as he decides on which players he has trialling fit the bill.

Apart from new players, Jancev is keen to take advantage of the obvious abilities of the club's highly capable Under 19 side from last summer in particular Milorad (Mickey) Simonovic, an outstanding prospect who can fill any roles at the back or in the mid-field, Dejan Malenik, a blond striker who showed up well in the Finals' series, Alex Kanak and brilliant right midfielder Dalebor Drca, another with a blond

thatch. Ljube feels that he now only needs a couple more players, probably a striker and a defender, to be competitive.

He has also arranged for one-time Schofields Scorpions star and last season's Canterbury player, the tall Shane Cevenini, to put pen to paper.

Traditionally slow starters, the White Eagles can ill afford to do that every season and should begin with some solid results, despite having a new look about them.

There is always an air of quality about Bonnyrigg sides and the culture at the club insists on good football being played.

Club spokesman and long time secretary Jack Crjanic is optimistic for the new season's prospects.

"With the good coaching of Ljube Jancev I feel we should do better this season. Everyone at the club has been working hard during the off season too.

"We have not been idle. Over 60 people have been working on fixing the drainage problems that plagued us for so many seasons now at the Serbian Centre," explained Soccer NSW life-member Crjanic.

In 48 hours they managed to lay pipes every two metres over the whole main field and put down sand and gravel under the expert advice of former president Danny Kos.

Kos was at the helm three years ago and is currently the club's Marketing Manager and his business knowledge and practical assis-



Dynamic midfielder Devrim Huseyin has been retained by coach Lube Jancev

tance from his building firm, D and N Kos Builders was a great advantage. The days of summer rain-offs should now be a thing of the past out Bonnyrigg way.

The club has also finally secured a promise from the local council to provide a new, training ground, which will become the third field at the Serbian Centre and replaces the inadequate facility the club has been using at Cabramatta Park. They will not be able to train on the new pitch until January 2004, but that isn't much longer for the club to wait.

The club played Bankstown at Knight Park two weekends back and managed a 1-1 draw, with the return leg just last weekend at Graff Park resulting in a win for Bankstown 2-1. Coach Jancev feels that Bankstown should be a lot stronger this term.

"They looked a good side when we played them, though we were experimenting with players and I was quite happy with my side's performance," he observed.

The White Eagles take on Penrith at Knight Park this Saturday, 1st November, a day before the pre-season competition they are involved with at St George begins.

Jancev went further.

"We are working with the new players to get some cohesion with the squad and

I should be 99 per cent satisfied that I have the men in place that I need before the St George tournament gets into full swing. The Penrith game is really the last chance for the trialling players to impress me," he concluded.

On the prospects for the division as a whole Jancev was very positive. "It should be a very even season and teams from the bottom are going to get much closer to the quality of the top sides this year I feel.

"A.P.I.A., Rockdale, Bankstown and Blacktown will be the teams to beat and we have to keep our reputation, of course, as one of the top teams.

Jancev said that he felt Penrith would make life difficult for the bigger clubs and it would come as no surprise to him when that happened but it may do to some of the other clubs.

"The Panthers won't surprise me!" he announced. The experience gained by their players since coming into the league and their new signings should see to that.

Bonnyrigg will be thereabouts as always when Finals come around and all eyes will be upon them when they turn out this weekend in the first games of the pre-season series. It will be interesting to see if they can live up to their billing as tournament favourites too.



Reliable Bonnyrigg striker Aaron Burgess



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CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC

Berries No Easy Pickings This Year

With Greg Stock

The oldest club in the league, Canterbury are set to be the big improvers this year and, on paper at least, look well capable of a top three finish.

Originally founded in 1896, the Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic has gone through many aliases. Its history dotted with dramatic near misses and spectacular failures, including a brief adventure in the National League in the 1980's.

The club is now well-settled at the Henson Park complex, a famous old sporting arena in inner-city Marrickville that once hosted the Empire Games, and which is notable for the largest grass hill of any stadium in the state.

Last season saw another chapter in the club's varied history unfold. The Berries appointed N.S.W. state coach Greg Woodhouse to the helm and for all but the final two rounds found itself well entrenched inside the top five. But just two points from their final five matches saw them fall at the final hurdle. A heart-breaking loss to St George in the last game was the final straw.

But season 2003/4 sees them back bigger and brighter than ever with Woodhouse assembling an all-star cast at Henson Park. Despite only using eighteen first grade

players last season, the smallest number in the league, Woodhouse is keen to extend the roster to twenty and generate some competition for places ahead of a long season.

"Our problem last year was a lack of depth and in the end it cost us a place in the Semi-Finals," said Woodhouse. "This year our focus has been to retain the majority of the squad and add in 5 or 6 quality players who can play the key positions."

On that note the Berries have been one of the most aggressive recruiters in the player market, attracting big names such as Sam Larocca and Bob Catlin from APIA-Leichhardt, David Harding from Bonnyrigg, David Gardiner and Rod Hutchinson from Penrith Panthers and David Cervinski from Wollongong City. Expected to sign as early as this coming Tuesday is Anthony Mondello from Parramatta Eagles, to round out the first grade squad.

On the debit side, Tom Maric has announced his retirement from the game, Michael West is trialling in England while George Nohra and Ivan Necevski have been signed by Sydney United.

While the defence again looks strong, the Berries fortunes will again ride on their enigmatic strikers with the likes of Leigh Gunn, Rod Hutchinson and Anthony Mondello to come under the spotlight.

"We struggled to score goals last season and it was definitely our Achilles heel," said Woodhouse.

"Between the three strikers we have I am confident we have that hole filled. All three have been training well and scoring goals in the trial games which is encouraging."

On the subject of their chances for the season, Woodhouse is cautious. "Our preseason work has been good and we are coming together nicely as a team," he said.

"With such a large number of new players it may take us some time to gel and I can guarantee you won't see the best from this team until the second round."

"So if we can get off to a reasonable start and work ourselves into the top half of the table just after Christmas, I'll be more than pleased."

One player to keep an eye out for is David Cervinski. Despite suffering a slight knee problem, which has curtailed his preseason work, Cervinski has impressed the staff at Henson Park, who have a high opinion of his abilities. The man they call 'Shovel' is definitely a great addition to Premier League ranks.

"He is a breath of fresh air around the place," said Woodhouse.

"His experience will be invaluable to us and if he can stay fit and healthy he'll be one of the best players in the league."

Season 2003/4 could yet be the year that Canterbury-Marrickville walk tall once again.



Star Canterbury-Marrickville striker Leigh Gunn may be in the running for the Golden Boot in 2004

Maric Signs Off

One player who won't be making a return to the Premier League this year is former Canterbury-Marrickville defender Tom Maric, who has announced his intention to quit the game and pursue his interests in martial arts.

Fresh from a three-month stint in Malta, Maric had returned to Australia and was considering a return to the Berries ranks, but has now decided to concentrate on establishing his architectural business and becoming a black belt in karate.

"My time in Malta was quite an interesting one but not something that I would recommend from a footballing perspective," said Maric when FTS caught up with him in the city last week.

"The Maltese first division competition is probably a little less in quality as compared to our Premier League and to be perfectly honest I didn't really enjoy

it." In Malta for the birth of his son Sam, Maric caught up with a couple of other Aussie players, Peter Pulicino and Wayne Attard.

"I met Wayne after a game against Hamrun Spartans and he seemed like a great bloke," continued Maric.

"He is getting married shortly and is one of the standout players for his team. Interestingly in the game we played them he scored an own goal from a cross I put into the box, probably not something he wants to remember too fondly."

"I saw Peter Pulicino play a few times and he looks to be quite a home there, but it just wasn't where I wanted to be so I decided to come home."

Back in Sydney, the former Berries defender has been in touch with coach Greg Woodhouse but has resisted an offer to return to the fold.

"I went down and spoke with Greg last week and said that if I do play again

it will be for Canterbury, but at this stage I can't see that happening. I have a great year last season and have a lot of friends playing there, but I have other priorities at present and need to get everything ready for the return of my girlfriend Nirvana and our little boy Sam in about three weeks."

Maric joins the likes of Colin Luff and David Reid as three profile Premier League players who have all elected to retire and miss the forthcoming season. While Maric has confirmed an intention to pursue a black belt in Karate, Reid and Luff are rumored to be playing alongside former Sutherland Sharks players Paul Donnelly and Wayne Gibson in the Winter season for Illawarra Premier League outfit Picton Rangers.

Who knows what might happen in the future? continued Maric, "but at this stage I am officially retired."

CENTRAL COAST UNITED

New Team, New Future

By Paul Goodwin

The background to the club we now call the 'Central Coast' is a long one.

After months of negotiations between the Central Coast Soccer Association, Central Coast Colorbond Coasties and Mingara Lakers, agreement was reached on the 14th of August, this year to form a new club on the coast by merging the Central Coast Coasties with the Mingara Lakers and with the full support of the Central Coast Soccer Association.

The new club is called Central Coast FC and the name of the Colorbond Coasties will live on under the sponsorship deal forged last season.

The Coasties won their way into the Premier League after battling their way through the divisions for many years under coaches such as John McLafferty, Dale Eggleton, Allan Bourke, Vic Bozanic, Bruce James and the man who takes on the job this season, Jim Foley.

The first major appointment of the new elite representative club was the appointment of Jim Foley as Senior Head Coach, in charge of all the senior teams and staff.

Jim has coached in the past with great success and will be ably supported by well known, local ex Coasties' and St George player Andrew Ollier.

Jim Foley said "I believe the merger between the Coasties and the Mingara Lakers is absolutely fantastic and a major

positive step forward in taking soccer on the coast to where it needs to be.

"Obviously, as with any merger, it has not been without its teething problems, however I am confident that the merger will bear quality fruit."

Friday 14th November 2003 will be the official launch of the new Central Coast Football Club at the Mingara Recreation Club in the main function room.

Mingara Lakers held a position in the NSW competition for some years and the Lakers' were represented in Youth League as well.

The Lakers were originally named the Macquarie representative side and they operated with the full support of the CCSA.

They made their way into the 2nd Division by buying out Arncliffe Scots, but their seniors in the past season were withdrawn from the competition.

With the new structure of Youth League, only teams competing in the top 3 divisions can have youth league representation, so the two clubs resources were combined with the support of the CCSA and a new Club was formed to cater for all age groups at the highest possible competition level for ages 11 up to seniors in boys and 12 to seniors in girls.

The home ground is still Plum Park with the girls playing out of Mingara Stadium.

The Lakers built a club and ground at Mingara and the first few matches of the summer season will be held at the new



The Coasties have now morphed into Central Coast United



Nathan Byrn will shoulder much of the goalscoring responsibility for Central Coast United this season

ground north of Gosford.

Later in the season Plum Park will be the home of the Colorbond Coasties as the new Central Coast FC endeavours to match the efforts of its predecessors.

The playing ranks have undergone some transformation under Jim Foley and Andrew Ollier and it may take some time for the new team to settle down, in contrast to past seasons when the team has began faster than many other outfits.

More patience may be needed this time.

As far as new talent or new signings are concerned keep an eye out for Doug West and John Bennis and in the Under 20's for Jamie Subat, one of the most promising strikers to be found in the area.

Defender and NSW representative player, Mitchell Daley, is back along with fellow defender Sean Matthews, who spent some months in Singapore with Sengkang Marine.

Josh Maguire looks like leaving to join Blacktown City but Marc Falzon is still there as is David Brewer.

The club welcomes back Aron Bnskin, will be looking to Ben Kerri to look after the goalkeeping and also has signed again Matthew Trott. Kristian Shepherd is another new face at the club.

The team played a trial game against Canterbury Marrickville last Saturday evening at Plum Park. Foley was pleased with the aining for his team.

"Saturdays outing against Canterbury showed the potential for the coming season with the under 21's holding on with an impressive 1-0 victory with a goal to Jamie Subat while the first grade squad showed tenacity in holding Canterbury 4-0 a 3-3 draw with goals to Marc Falzon, Nathan Byrn and Kristian Shepherd.

"I don't believe we will necessarily achieve all our objectives in one season and have instructed the players, and my coaching staff, that our goals are part of a three year plan

"But we are very confident that within that three year period the new Central Coast United Football Club will become a major force to be reckoned with both on and off the park."

The next trial games will provide a chance for spectators to get a taste of things to come for the new look Colorbond Coasties squads when they take on A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt at Mingara on Sunday 2nd November with kick off times set down for 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

Entertaining Draw on Coast

At Plum Park on Saturday night the the Coasties fought out a very entertaining 3-3 draw with Canterbury-Marrickville.

Without the services of Sam Larocca, David Cervinski, Ben Price and Rod Hutchinson, Canterbury were under strength but shot out to an early lead and took it to 3-1 midway through the second half.

Goals to Aheleas Kotsopoulos, David Harding and Anthony Mondello, had the home side on the

back foot but some late changes and a revival in the home sides fortunes saw the Coasties slip in with two late replies to share the points.

"Canterbury will obviously be a force to be reckoned with, but Saturday's result showed what the Central Coast United Football Club can produce," said coach Jim Foley. The Coasties goalscorers were Marc Falzon, youngster Kristian Shepherd and Nathan Byrn.



Aron Bnskin will return for Central Coast in 2003/4



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PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Testing Times for New Young Eagles

With Greg Stock

This season could mark a make or break year for Parramatta Eagles.

Some see them as potentially one of this year's strugglers. Finishing fifth last year would have been great news for some clubs, but expectations are always very high out at Melita Stadium.

Given the Eagles' history in New South Wales soccer, this pressure to perform is not surprising. Formed originally from two smaller clubs in Melita and Malita, the South Granville-based side has amassed an impressive string of achievements over the last 20 years.

Premierships in 1980, 1983, 1986 and 1989 lead to a considerable stint in the National League, which included several finals appearances and cup wins. They were relegated back into the NSW competition in the 1990's, despite finishing above a number of other clubs.

The Eagles have always had a large, vocal following, and this support enabled

them to build their fine soccer stadium, and foster the development of some brilliant junior players over the years.

But, despite winning the premiership/championship double two seasons ago, the bubble has now well and truly burst, with their early exit from the Semi Finals last year and the subsequent departure of coach John Calleja to Wollongong City.

Enter Trevor Morgan, the former Parramatta Power youth coach, but can he save the ailing club which is struggling under the severe weight of some off-field financial pressure?

"I had no illusions about the challenge we face but I am quietly confident we

have what it takes to be a very competitive team," said coach Trevor Morgan. "The club's financial issues are well documented and we have reduced the first grade budget to reflect that, so what we

have done is to go back to our youth teams and given some of our talented kids a chance.

"We have kept just five first grade players from last season to give us the experience and around that we are building a young group of players who will be keen and enthusiastic to make an impression."

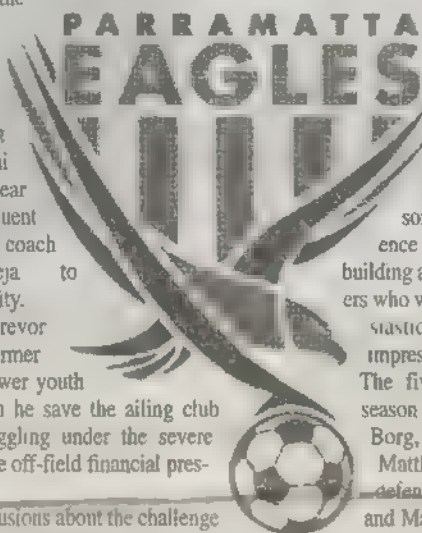
The five players from last season are midfielders Daniel Borg, Ben Delicata and Matthew O'Shea and defenders Anthony Mituga and Mark Reveley. Added to that will be new signings Matthew Clowes (ex Sydney United), Victor Costabile (ex Wollongong Wolves and Australian Under 17 youth international), Matthew Rosier (once on the books of Southampton in the UK) and goalkeeper Peter Munsie (from Macarthur Rams).

So far the preseason trial games results have been promising and, with a couple of more signings to come soon, the mood in the camp does look positive. Whether that and some youthful enthusiasm is enough to get them into top five calculations remains to be seen.

"Our training so far has been good and the boys have really settled in well as a unit," said Morgan. "The club has a history of success through the State and National Leagues and while I am not about to predict we will win the league, I am prepared to say we will win some games with the obvious aim of a top five finish."

The player under the most pressure to step up is Winter Super League Silver Medallist Peter Munsie. A former Eagles junior, Munsie will fill the shoes left vacant by the departing captain Jason Holmes, who was an institution at Melita Stadium.

"Peter has done well during the preseason and I am expecting some good things from him," said Morgan. "I have been a fan of his for a while now and feel he will handle the step up without any problems."



Young midfielder Daniel Borg



Veteran Parramatta Eagles defender Mark Reveley

Melita 'Outpoint' Blacktown

Out at Melita Stadium on Saturday morning, Blacktown City and Parramatta Eagles went head to head, the home side recording a resounding 3-1 win over last seasons Premiers.

"The Eagles were young, fit and very enthusiastic and outpointed us

in all areas" said Demons Assistant coach Nick Bilbija.

"Our boys allowed themselves to get distracted and threw their self discipline out the window and from that end the Eagles deserved the result," he said.

For Blacktown, the lone goalscorer was Kiwi international Paul

Urlovic who put away a lovely cross from Kain Rastall. Nick Jellic, deputising for the flu riddled John Crawley had a strong game as did defender Pat Gatt and midfielder Kain Rastall.

The Demons are expecting to finalise the signatures of Josh Maguire and Urlovic this week.



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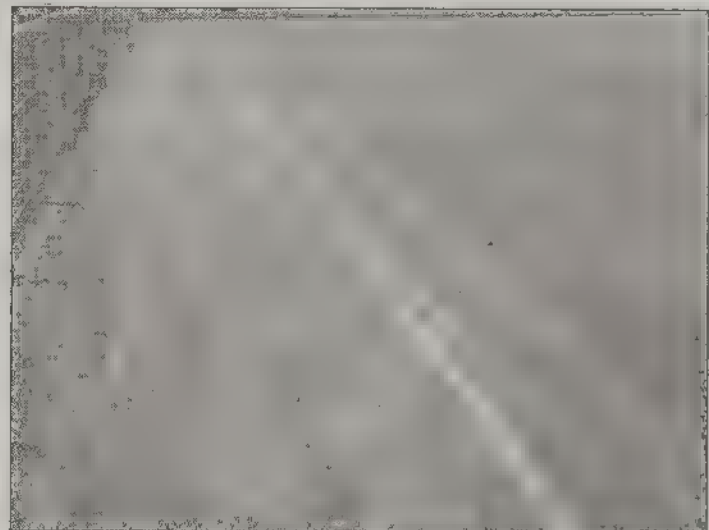
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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Age No Barrier for Bruno

Veteran St George striker Bruno Beddoni has finally signed a new one year deal with the Saints and with the retirements of Penrith's Osvaldo El Ali and Berries deputy 'keeper Mike Gibson, is set to become the oldest player in the Premier League.

"I definitely don't feel 37," said Beddoni who turns 38 on April 15 next year. "When I came back to the Premier League in 2001, everyone wrote me off saying I was washed up and finished and here I am, still going around and still scoring goals. At my age I know that each game could be my last so I try as hard as I can to stay fit and focused and impart a bit of my experience on the younger boys in the team."

During the offseason Beddoni playing with Western Rage in the First Division, which he saw as an opportunity to stay fit, but now back with the Saints he almost jumping out of skin waiting for the first game to roll around.

"I am excited by what the club is trying to do in recruiting some quality talent and I am really looking forward to playing alongside guys like 'Chi Chi' Mendez, Daniel Watkins, Sebastian Sinozic, Raphael Bove and Vince Savoca.

If we can put things together early, who knows we might even win some games and challenge this year, and at my age to make the semi-finals, wouldn't that be something! Beddoni will be joined by sweeper Dean Culina who has also signed a one-year deal with St. George.

Suns Rained Out

Rockdale City Suns played host to A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt on Saturday at the Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, but the game called off after just twenty minutes of the second half.

With a freak storm enveloping the ground the referee called the match, allowing players to scramble into the safety of the dressing rooms amidst the lightning flashes and driving rain. The

home side was on top 1-0 at the time, Robbie Todorovski scoring for the Suns who also had midfielder Tony Sekulic miss a penalty.

Coach Bill Pilovski had ex-Fraser Park and Dulwich Hill goalkeeper Daniel Farnas between the sticks and he did more than a reasonable job. In other Suns news, Pilovski has put to paper with former Sydney Olympic striker Harry James on a loan deal from his Illawarra club Wollongong Olympic. James had impressed Pilovski during a two-week trial period as he looks to reestablish his career in the Premier League.

"He is a very quick player and he looks capable of doing a job for us," said Pilovski. "He has impressed everyone with his attitude and work ethic at training and will give us a bit of spark on the forward line."

Warren Cup Kick Off

Premier League fans looking for their 'football fix' this weekend should get along to the first round of Johnny Warren Cup games at St George Stadium this coming Sunday afternoon. A slight fixture alteration to the first round sees Crescent Star playing Rockdale City Suns at 4pm, while St. George will play Bonnyrigg White Eagles at 6pm.

According to coach Manny Spanoudakis the ground is in tip top condition after some reurfing work has been completed and a big crowd is expected with four of the biggest drawing sides in the league the main attraction.

Round Two matches follow the following Wednesday night (November 5th), with round three on Sunday week (November 9th). The final and third place playoff is booked down for Sunday November 16th.

Sick List Lengthens

One club undergoing a mini-injury crisis of sorts is Canterbury-Marrickville.

Coach Greg Woodhouse has a number of his key personnel laid up with various ailments including John Kynazopoulos (groin), Cormack Begley (hamstring), David Cervinski (leg), Ben Price (ankle), Sasa Utesenovic (knee) and Michael O'Riley (knee).

Hawks Examine Coaches

Winter Super League club Stanmore Hawks looks set to announce their coach for season 2004 in the next week or so, finalising a shortlist of names. Those at the top of the list include Sotiri Mavros, Tony Pace and Eddie Tesoro.

Hot favourite Ross Anton has ruled himself out of contention electing to concentrate on his tennis coaching business.

Porecca to Lead Mounties

On the subject of coaches, ex-AC United boss Nick Porecca now has a new home, having been confirmed as the new boss of progressive First Division outfit Mount Pritchard.

"With AC deciding to merge it had been a tough past few weeks," said Porecca when FTS caught up him early last week. "It was terribly disappointing to leave a club that had been home for 20 years but I was keen to continue coaching and I am looking forward to taking the reins at Mount Pritchard and having a successful season."

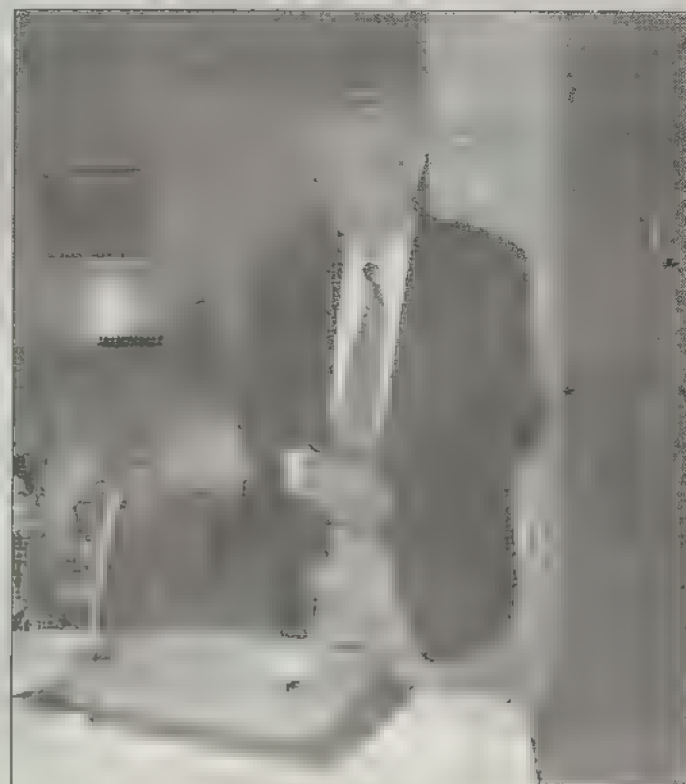
The club has applied for promotion to the Winter Super League, the club is not letting the grass grow under its feet in the meantime. Last season's First Division Grand Final winners are using the off-season for some redevelopment work on the facilities at their excellent Cook Park HQ. The dressing rooms and clubhouse are set for a revamp, as are the lights and playing surface, which will be ready for the first game of 2004.

Sentas Sighted

Former Fraser Park and St. George coach John Sentas was an interested spectator at the Sydney Olympic match against Perth Glory and expects to be out and about during the next few weeks catching some of the pre-season tournament at St George.

He was taking notice of the transition of many former Premier League players into the ranks of the Olympic side and as a former coach of the club himself obviously has a take on what is happening at the club in the new season.

As mentor of one time St George Under 19 coach and his assistant at that club, Ian Gillan, he was also delighted to learn of Gillan's award as Super League Coach of the Year. "If I'd known in advance I'd have booked a table" he quipped.



Congratulations to Mr Bill Morris, who has been honoured by Nepean Soccer Association for his long and dedicated service



Saints-Panthers Stalemate

At Kingswood Road, Penrith and St George played out a 1-1 draw, surviving a heavy downpour during the early stages of the first half.

Teenage striker James Kovac got the opening goal for St George when he nipped in to meet a Gabriel Mendez cross from a freekick, the Panthers replying via Adam Anderson with a header, again from a set piece.

"It was a fair result for both teams," said St George coach Manny Spanoudakis. "Penrith do the simple

things very well and look to have the makings of a very competitive team." Best for St George was Kovac, Bruno Beddoni and new signing Dean Culina.

There was some bad news for young Saints midfielder Kosta Lagoudakis who was taken to hospital with a suspected broken foot. The injury couldn't have come at a worse time for Lagoudakis who is four weeks away from a trip to England where he was set to trial with Liverpool under the 'Big Brother' program.

Mixed Fortunes in Trials

Under lights at Pittwater Park last Tuesday, Bankstown City scored a 3-2 win over NSL side Northern Spirit, with both sides playing a number of young players.

Alex Trpkoski, Robbie Gomez and triallist Paul Candelori scored goals for the Lions who thoroughly deserved the win.

On Sunday afternoon at Graf Park, the Lions made it two wins for the week, defeating Bonnyrigg 2-1. Two

goals to Matthew Borg were the highlight for the winners with young striker Dejan Malenica getting the lone goal for the White Eagles.

"It was our first serious game for the season," said Bonnyrigg coach Ljube Jancev, "and it gave us a good idea where we are in relation to the other teams."

It was an even match but full credit to Bankstown, they look a little sharper and a little fitter than we do at this stage of the year."



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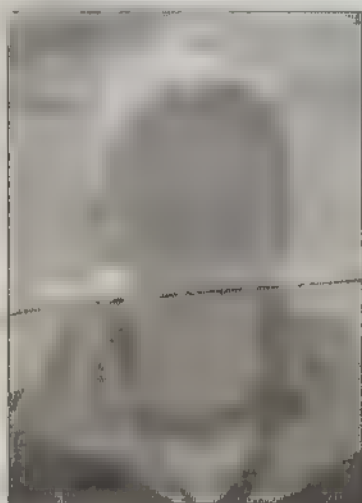
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WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

NSW ECLIPSE CANBERRA

NSW Sapphires emerged 1-0 victors over Canberra Eclipse in Sunday's feature match of the Women's National Soccer League. The round two fixture was played in the women's soccer stronghold of Bathurst.



New Sapphires Sally Shppard

NSW now have maximum points from their two opening matches, and a healthy goal difference of 10-zip, mainly thanks to their round one thrashing of Northern NSW Pride.

The Sapphires held a slight edge over their opponents overall, with the greater number of chances on goal, but seemed a little subdued in their performance and didn't really take full control of the match at any point.

They should have taken the lead late in the first half, but for a missed penalty kick. Canberra defended well throughout

the clash, but found it difficult to create clear opportunities in attack.

On a wet, slippery pitch following earlier electrical storms, NSW were awarded a penalty in the 38th minute after Leah Blayney was brought down amidst a scramble in the box.

Captain and Australian Matilda Taryn Rockall lined up for the spot kick but sent the ball over the crossbar. Shortly after, a neat NSW move between Jo Burgess and Sally Shppard set up Rockall, but she hit the post from a difficult chance and the teams went to the break scoreless.

In the second half, Canberra Eclipse tried to push forward via Amy Wilson and Caitlin Munoz up the flanks but their play still didn't seem to connect with players in front of goal.

The deadlock was broken in the 58th minute through the efforts of NSW's Catherine Cannuli on the break. The Eclipse managed to shut Cannuli down but the striker regained possession and crossed the ball.

The goalkeeper's attempted parry hit a defender running back towards goal and deflected in to give the Sapphires their slender lead.

NSW came close to stretching their lead in the 74th minute with a double opportunity to Blayney, but the ball was both times cleared off the line by Canberra defender Nicole Somi.

The Sapphires' next match is against Adelaide Sensation at Marden Sports Park in South Australia — kick off is at 1.30pm.

NSW SAPPHIRES 1 (own goal 58m) defeated **CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0** at Carrington Park, Bathurst



(Above) Future Sapphires?
St Clair United players celebrate their victory in the Champion of Champions Under 16 Women's Grand Final



New Assistant Appointed

Soccer NSW has appointed Norm Boardman to the position of Assistant Technical Director.

This is the third instalment to the management team in the Soccer NSW Coaching & Development Department.

Norm was formerly Regional Development Coach for the Southern Branch, and has coached various

State Teams at the National Talent Identification Championships over the past 11 years. Norm was also involved with the Australian Paralympic Football team.

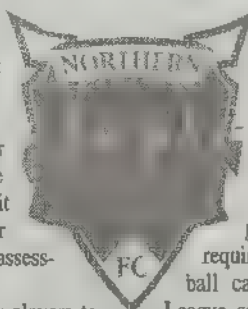
Norm's role will be to assist Soccer NSW Technical Director, Branko Colina, with coach education, coaching accreditation and youth development programs.

Boost for North Shore Soccer

The Northern Spirit Premier Youth League Convenor, Mr Ross Iredale, today announced some further additions to the "YES" program that underpins the clubs' development.

'We have arranged for the Premier Youth League squads (13 to 18) to visit the AIS in February for training, education and assessment.'

We want to expose our players to the best information and opportunities available.'



The Club also announced the appointment of a Sports Performance Manager, Mr Anthony Tsui, for the Gladesville-Hornsby Metropolitan League 11s and 12s.

Anthony is a qualified sports trainer and will be working with the players to ensure that they have a solid grounding in what is required to pursue an elite football career. The Premier Youth League squads (13s to 18s) will be instructed in sports performance by Mr Anthony Crea and Mr Dan Uchino

from the "Speed and Agility Academy".

Anthony and Daniel have been working with Frank Farina's Socceroos and Mr Iredale is confident that the benefit of this sort of training and education will be a great advantage to his players.

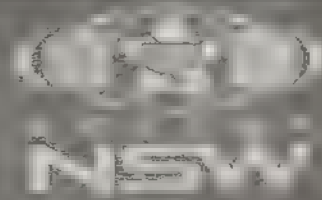
'Not only will the players be trained in areas of agility, flexibility and speed but they will also be educated on diet, recovery and injury management,' he said.

Northern Spirit Premier Youth is in negotiations with clubs and organisations in Italy and Japan with a view to establishing player and coach exchanges and interaction that may be mutually beneficial.



SOCCER NSW

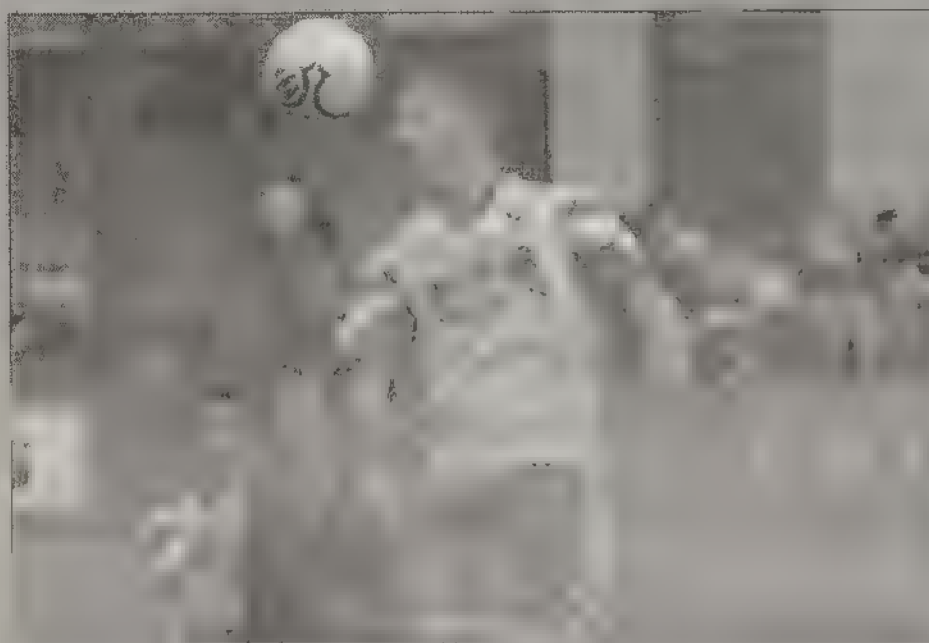
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CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS FINALS

Valentine Sports Park

Sunday 26th October 2003



Aerial action from the Under 18 Men's Grand Final between Como West Jannali and St Clair



Valentine Sports Park, venue for the 2003 Champion of Champions Grand Finals

All Age Women

Pittwater. SC. 0
Epping YMCA. SC. 3

Under 16 Women

Gymea. SC. 1
St. Clair. SC. 4

Under 14 Women

Alstonville. SC. 0
Milton Ulladulla. SC. 1

Under 10 Boys

Marconi Jnrs. SC. 4
Figtree. SC. 0

Under 11 Boys

Wakehurst. SC. 0
Oak Flats. SC. 2

Under 12 Boys

Eagles United. SC. 6
Orana Spurs. SC. 2

Under 13 Boys

Eagles United. SC. 2
West Pennant Hills. SC. 0

Under 14 Boys

Strathfield. SC. 1
Saints United. SC. 2

Under 15 Boys

Woolgoolga. SC. 1
Shell Harbour. SC. 2

Under 16 Boys

Beacon Hill. SC. 0
Conniston. SC. 4

Under 17 Men

Inter Lions. SC. 0
Camden Falcons. SC. 1

Under 18 Men

Como West Jannali. SC. 4
St. Clair. SC. 1

Under 21 Men

Loftus Yarrawarra. SC. 4
Blue Mountains. SC. 0

All Age Men

Brookvale. SC. 3
Normanhurst. SC. 1

Over 35 Men

Engadine Eagles. SC. 2
Chatswood Rangers. SC. 1



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ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Inter are certainly in trouble at the moment with a run of poor results in the Serie A and a shock 3-0 loss in Moscow last week in the Champions League against Lokomotiv Moscow.

They have recently sacked their coach Hector Cuper after two and a bit years and replaced him with Alberto Zaccheroni.

Cuper was rumoured to be on the way out during the recent summer off season but somehow Inter President, Massimo Moratti, remained loyal to the Argentinian mentor.

It was the recent 2-2 draw against Brescia that proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back. Down 0-2 Inter were lucky to get a draw after Brescia had taken the lead thanks to a Roberto Baggio goal.

The irony of course is that Baggio is a former Inter player who was sold by the club because he wasn't deemed to be good enough.

Inter had also recently lost the derby to AC Milan which is always a very bitter pill to swallow. Moratti after that game had warned that Cuper could not afford to slip up again.

Cuper's record at Inter in two full seasons in charge was a third place finish in 2002 and a second place finish last season.

However, it was the 2002 result which was the most bitter because on the last day Inter lost 4-2 to Lazio in Rome after going into the last round as Serie A leaders; one point ahead of Juventus and two ahead of Roma.

Juventus beat Udinese away 2-0 and Roma beat Torino away 1-0 that day to condemn Inter to third place and Ronaldo to unstoppable tears after the game on the bench. Inter had lost a Scudetto which seemed to be theirs for the taking.

The club of course last experienced a Scudetto way back in 1989 when current Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni was in charge of the team. It has been far too long for Inter supporters to wait.

Ronaldo never recovered from the emotional low of that day and his relationship with Cuper was irreparably damaged. After the 2002 World Cup he went to Real Madrid.

It was no surprise to see Ronaldo express his joy on Italian television the day after Cuper was sacked when interviewed about the demise of the coach.

Zaccheroni takes charge of the team but his position is temporary at best. Inter will enter a 'holding pattern' until the end of the season when Roberto Mancini, who is currently at Lazio, takes over.

Zaccheroni had held the fort for Mancini for less than a season two years ago at Lazio and it looks like the same will happen again at Inter.

Moratti heavily courted Mancini during the summer but the deal never eventuated. When Mancini was a player Moratti tried to get him to Inter but was beaten to it by Lazio after Mancini had left Sampdoria.

Zaccheroni isn't a bad coach in his own right. He very nicely built up Udinese, along with the help of German striker Oliver Bierhoff, during the 1990's and the club even played in the UEFA Cup. Udinese has never reached such dizzy heights again.

Then he moved to AC Milan and in his first season there he won the Scudetto in 1999. AC Milan had gone through some lean years after a brilliant decade from the mid 1980's.

Zaccheroni wasn't expected to do much with the team given that both Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello, the coaches that made AC Milan such a super team, had failed miserably in their second stints at the club the previous years.

The problem for Inter with Cuper's demise is that he led the off season buying campaign and now the team is stuck with the players he chose. Clearly Zaccheroni is in a no-win situation because he has to make do with what he has in terms of playing personnel.

In the end one can only hope that Inter somehow turn the corner because their fans have suffered far too long and they deserve better.

It seems that AC Milan will turn to the Italian law courts to prevent their star player Kaka playing too many matches for Brazil.

The Brazil Under 23 Olympic team that hopes to qualify for the Athens 2004 games will require the 21 year old Brazilian. He is also part of the senior national team and will be required for the 2006 World Cup qualifying matches and the Copa America.

AC Milan are not trying to prevent him from playing with the senior Selecao team but rather the Under 23 team. According to AC Milan vice president, Adriano Galliani, it could be another Bosman-case with the law courts deciding if the player, who is employed by a club, can be prevented from playing for his country.

It is certainly a challenge to FIFA rules and it could open up a real Pandora's box. It will be a case worth monitoring.

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

INTER0

ROMA0

Alberto Zaccheroni's first game in charge at Inter since replacing Hector Cuper ended in a 0-0 stalemate at home to unbeaten Roma - a result that keeps Inter in ninth place. Prior to the match around 1,000 Inter fans staged a protest by greeting their players with whistles and chants as they arrived for the match.

JUVENTUS2

BRESCIA0

Midfielder Pavel Nedved inspired Juventus to victory after their goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saved Roberto Baggio's penalty with just four minutes on the clock. Two minutes later the Czech midfielder lashed a right-footed shot past Brescia's Sebastian Saja and French striker David Trezeguet added a second goal, his fifth of the season.

SAMPDORIA0

AC MILAN3

Promoted Sampdoria looked out of their depth in a one-sided match against the European champions. Their goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli did well to parry an early shot by Milan playmaker Rui Costa but in the 38th minute mistimed a run out of his area to gift possession to Milan striker Jon Dahl Tomasson, who rolled the ball into an empty net. Two second half goals by Ukraine international Andriy Shevchenko took his tally for the season to eight, consolidating his position as Serie A's top scorer and Milan's place at the top of the league alongside Juventus.

LAZIO2

BOLOGNA1

Lazio put back-to-back defeats against AC Milan in Serie A and Chelsea in the Champions League behind them to emerge victorious from a scrappy final 10 minutes against Bologna. After a sterile first half Lazio coach Roberto Mancini sent on striker Simone Inzaghi -- a decision that paid off in the 83rd minute when the substitute put the home side ahead, chipping the ball over goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. An own goal by Lazio midfielder Ousmane Dabo restored parity four minutes later, but there was still time for Bernardo Corradi to nod in a cross a minute from time to secure all three points for the home side.

SERIE B

Ascoli 1 Palermo 2, Atalanta 2 Messina 2, Bari 0 Fiorentina 0, Catania 3 Piacenza 0, Livorno 2 Como 1, Napoli 2 Torino 2, Pescara 2 Salernitana 2, Ternana 2 Avellino 2, Treviso 1 Venezia 1, Triestina 3 AlbinoLeffe 0, Verona 2 Genoa 0, Vicenza 2 Cagliari 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Atalanta	11	7	4	0	18	-7	25
2. Ternana	11	7	2	2	18	-10	23
3. Palermo	11	6	4	1	14	-8	22
4. Livorno	11	5	4	2	15	-11	19
5. Catania	11	5	3	3	18	-13	18
6. Cagliari	11	5	2	4	22	-13	17
7. Torino	11	5	2	4	16	-12	17
8. Triestina	11	4	4	3	17	-18	16
9. Piacenza	11	4	4	3	10	-11	16
10. Ascoli	11	4	3	4	11	-13	15
11. Fiorentina	11	3	5	3	8	-8	14
12. Treviso	11	3	5	3	9	-10	14
13. Messina	11	3	5	3	12	-14	14
14. Verona	11	3	4	4	15	-16	13
15. Pescara	11	3	4	4	10	-13	13
16. Vicenza	11	2	6	3	10	-10	12
17. Genoa	11	3	3	5	10	-13	12
18. Salernitana	11	3	3	5	-8	-12	12
19. AlbinoLeffe	11	3	3	5	12	-17	12
20. Napoli	11	1	8	2	8	-11	11
21. Bari	11	2	4	5	14	-16	10
22. Venezia	11	1	6	4	8	-13	9
23. Como	11	2	2	7	7	-17	8
24. Avellino	11	1	4	6	10	-14	7



Empoli's Francesco Pratali (right) climbs above Chievo's Carvalho de Amauri (left) for a header.

PARMA3

MODENA0

Modena's run of three consecutive victories came to an abrupt halt against a Parma team eager to make amends for last weekend's defeat to Roma. Domenico Morfeo put the home side ahead in the 28th minute before late strikes by Marco Marchionni and Brazilian forward Adriano, his seventh goal of the season, wrapped up a win that kept Parma in fourth place.

PERUGIA03

UDINESE3

Perugia's progress in the UEFA Cup contrasts with their disappointing league form. The Umbrian side led 2-1 at the interval thanks to goals by defender Marco Di Loreto and striker Jay Bothroyd, but Dino Fava Passaro struck twice in the second half to complete his hat-trick and put Udinese back in front. Massimo Margiotta's 89th-minute equaliser will be scant consolation for Perugia, who have yet to win this season.

REGGINA0

ANCONA0

Ancona dragged themselves off the bottom of Serie A with a goalless draw against Reggina, who dominated the match but missed suspended striker David Di Michele. Reggina's poor home form last season consigned them to a playoff with Atalanta for the right to stay in Serie A. On this evidence, not much has changed since then.

EMPOLI0

CHIEVO1

A superbly taken goal from Brazilian striker Amauri gave Chievo Verona a 1-0 win at Empoli.

Amauri's volley from a Franco Sensi cross on the hour was all that separated the sides in a tight contest which ended with Empoli's fifth defeat from seven games leaving them next to bottom.

SIENA2

LECCE1

Former Parma striker Enrico Chiesa grabbed a 76th-minute winner as Siena came from behind to beat Lecce 2-1.

Lecce took an early lead in the ninth minute through Uruguayan Ernesto Chevanton, who provided a clinical finish when compatriot Guillermo

Giacomazzi headed the ball down to him.

But Siena, in their first season in the top flight, drew level just three minutes later through Rodrigo Tadder's acrobatic volley.

FIXTURES

Sunday 2nd November

Ancona	vs	Siena
Bologna	vs	Sampdoria
Brescia	vs	Parma
Chievo	vs	Inter
Lecce	vs	Empoli
Milan	vs	Juventus
Modena	vs	Perugia
Roma	vs	Reggina

SERIE A

Inter Milan 0 Roma 0, Empoli 0 Chievo 1, Siena 2 Lecce 1, Juventus 2 Brescia 0, Sampdoria 0 AC Milan 3, Lazio 2 Bologna 1, Parma 3 Modena 0, Perugia 3 Udinese 3, Reggina 0 Ancona 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Milan	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
2 Juventus	7	6	1	0	18	7	19
3 Roma	7	4	3	0	14	3	15
4 Parma	7	4	2	1	13	7	14
5 Lazio	7	4	1	2	13	9	13
6 Chievo	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
7 Udinese	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
8 Modena	7	3	1	3	8	7	10
9 Inter	7	2	4	1	6	5	10
10 Siena	7	2	3	2	10	7	9
11 Reggina	7	1	5	1	9	10	8
12 Sampdoria	7	1	3	3	6	10	6
13 Brescia	7	1	3	3	12	17	6
14 Bologna	7	1	2	4	9	12	5
15 Perugia	7	0	5	2	9	15	5
16 Lecce	7	1	0	6	7	18	3
17 Ancona	7	0	2	5	4	15	2
18 Empoli	7	0	2	5	4	18	2



ENGLISH



CHARLTON 1 ARSENAL 1

Arsenal regained top spot after coming from behind to earn a point against a Charlton side who had won their three previous league games.

Italian Paolo Di Canio gave Charlton the lead on 27 minutes with a cheekily taken penalty. The striker nonchalantly chipped into the centre of the goal after Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehman had dived to his left.

Thierry Henry struck a post with a curling shot, but the France striker found the target on 39 minutes with a superbly struck free kick to earn Arsenal a point.

TOTTENHAM 0 M'BROUGH 0

A drab affair at White Hart Lane with neither side able to break the deadlock. Spurs, who have now gone five games unbeaten under caretaker boss David Pleat, badly missed injured striker Freddie Kanoute, while a point lifted Middlesbrough out of the bottom three.

ASTON VILLA 0 EVERTON 0

Wayne Rooney, who turned 18 this week, could not celebrate his birthday with a goal in a dour match which ended in a second successive goalless draw for both sides.

BOLTON 0 BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

Birmingham won at Bolton for the first time since 1965 with Mikael Forssell, their on-loan signing from Chelsea, scoring the winner after 31 minutes for his fourth goal of the season.



Striker James Beattie ended Southampton's 466-minute goal drought with the opener in the 2-0 win over Blackburn.

Forssell fired past fellow Finnish international, goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen for the only goal a minute after Bolton were denied a penalty at the other end.

Bolton, now without a win in five league games, had a spectacular overhead effort from Stelios Giannakopoulos disallowed for offside midway through the second half.

CHELSEA 1 MAN. CITY 0

Frank Lampard thought he had put Chelsea ahead after 30 minutes but his header was disallowed for a marginal offside decision, but Chelsea only had to wait four more minutes for a goal that counted.

Adnan Muto's cross got a helping hand from David Seaman for Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to tap into an empty net from two metres out. Manchester City played well and put Chelsea under plenty of pressure but the London side held on for a victory.

LIVERPOOL 3 LEEDS UTD 1

Liverpool's three-match losing streak ended with a well-deserved 3-1 win over Leeds United thanks to goals from Michael Owen and substitutes Danny Murphy and Florent Sinama-Pongolle - his first for the club.

Leeds played well in the first half and deserved



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (left) challenges Fulham's Alain Goma for the ball during United's shock 1-3 home loss.

Alan Smith's goal which cancelled out Owen's opener, but Liverpool were the better side after the break.

Owen scored with a well-taken volley, Murphy direct from a free kick and Sinama-Pongolle with an 18-metre strike.

MANCHESTER UTD 1 FULHAM 3

Fulham beat Manchester United for the first time since 1964 with a well-deserved victory at Old Trafford, scoring through Lee Clark (3), Steed Malbranque (66) and substitute Junichi Inamoto (79). Diego Forlan equalised for United on the stroke of half-time.

Fulham proved too strong for United whose confidence wobbled after conceding their first home goal of the season so early in the game following poor defending from Mikael Silvestre.

It was United's first home defeat since September 2002.

NEWCASTLE UTD 3 PORTSMOUTH 0

Newcastle won for the fifth successive match in all competitions after going ahead in the 17th minute when Gary Speed fired home from 18 metres following good approach work by Shola Ameobi and Lee Bowyer.

They continued their recent improvement when Alan Shearer blasted home a 28th-minute penalty after Dejan Stefanovic was ruled to have handled a Bowyer shot.

Shola Ameobi made it 3-0 after 61 minutes to leave Portsmouth looking for their first win at St James' Park since 1949.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 BLACKBURN 0

James Beattie ended Southampton's 466-minute goal drought with a 25-metre free kick after he himself had been fouled by Andy Todd in the 58th minute.

Blackburn's cause was made even harder when Andy Cole was shown a straight red card for raising his fists to Southampton's Michael Svensson five minutes after the goal.

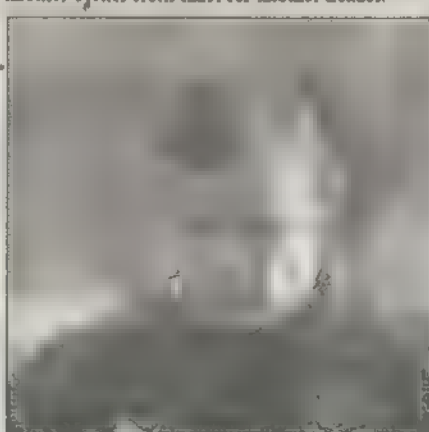
Youngster Leandre Griffit made it 2-0 four minutes from time as Rovers lost for the fourth straight league match, giving manager Graeme Souness a miserable return to his old club.

WOLVERHAMPTON 4 LEICESTER CITY 3

An astonishing game saw Wolves win 4-3 after trailing 0-3 at half-time.

Les Ferdinand scored in the 12th and 15th minutes to give Leicester the early advantage in the battle between the two bottom clubs.

Ferdinand's first came from a corner by Muzzy Izzet and the second when he got on the end of another corner from Izzet for another header.



Wayne Rooney could not celebrate his 18th birthday with an Everton victory.

Riccardo Scimeca appeared to seal the points for Leicester with a 25-metre shot after 35 minutes.

But Wolves came roaring back in the second half with three goals in 23 minutes - two from Colin Cameron, one from the penalty spot, and one from Alex Rae.

The sensational winner came from Henri Camara four minutes from time which lifted Wolves to 15th in the table.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 0 Everton 0, Bolton 0 Birmingham City 1, Chelsea 1 Man City 0, Liverpool 3 Leeds Utd 1, Manchester Utd 1 Fulham 3, Newcastle Utd 3 Portsmouth 0, Southampton 2 Blackburn 0, Wolverhampton 4 Leicester City 3, Charlton 1 Arsenal 1, Tottenham 0 Middlesbrough 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	10	7	3	0	19	8	24
Chelsea	10	7	2	1	20	9	23
Man Utd	10	7	1	2	18	6	22
Birmingham	10	5	4	1	9	5	19
Fulham	10	5	3	2	20	13	18
Southampton	10	4	4	2	10	5	16
Man City	10	4	3	3	20	12	15
Newcastle	10	4	3	3	15	12	15
Charlton	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
Liverpool	10	4	2	4	15	11	14
Portsmouth	10	3	3	4	11	12	12
Tottenham	10	3	3	4	10	13	12
Everton	10	2	4	4	12	14	10
Aston Villa	10	2	4	4	8	12	10
Wolverhampton	10	2	3	5	7	21	9
Blackburn	10	2	2	6	15	19	8
Middlesbrough	10	2	2	6	15	18	8
Bolton	10	1	5	4	8	19	8
Leeds	10	2	2	6	9	21	8
Leicester	10	1	2	7	14	21	5

FIRST DIVISION

Bradford 1 Notts Forest 2, Burnley 1 Millwall 1, Cardiff 0 West Ham 0, Derby 1 Coventry 3, Gillingham 1 Crystal Palace 0, Norwich 1 Sunderland 0, Preston 1 Ipswich 1, Rotherham 0 West Brom 3, Stoke 1 Crewe 1, Walsall 2 Wigan 0, Wimbledon 1 Watford 3, Sheff Utd 1 Reading 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	15	10	1	4	23	13	31
Wigan	16	8	6	2	21	13	30
Norwich	15	8	4	3	21	15	28
Sheff Utd	15	8	3	4	24	16	27
Sunderland	15	8	3	4	19	11	27
West Ham	15	7	6	2	18	10	27
Ipswich	16	8	3	5	29	22	27
Nottm Forest	15	7	3	5	28	18	24
Reading	15	7	3	5	23	18	24
Millwall	16	6	6	4	20	16	24
Crewe	15	6	3	6	17	19	21
Cardiff	14	5	5	4	23	15	20
Preston	15	6	2	7	20	19	20
Walsall	15	5	4	6	17	16	19
Coventry	14	5	4	5	21	21	19
Burnley	15	5	4	6	23	28	19
Watford	14	4	4	6	16	17	16
Stoke	15	4	4	7	17	20	16
Crystal Palace	15	4	4	7	20	24	16
Gillingham	15	4	4	7	14	23	16
Derby	16	3	5	8	16	28	14
Rotherham	16	2	7	7	10	25	13
Bradford	15	3	3	9	14	25	12
Wimbledon	15	2	1	12	15	37	7

SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 0 Grimsby 0, Brighton 0 Stockport 1, Bristol City 1 Sheff Wed 1, Colchester 1 Chesterfield 0, Hartlepool 1 Wycombe 1, Luton 1 Peterborough 1, Notts County 2 Brentford 0, Oldham 1 Bournemouth 1, Plymouth 1 Blackpool 0, QPR 1 Tranmere 1, Rushden & Diamonds 2 Wrexham 3, Swindon 0 Port Vale 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	16	8	6	2	36	18	30
Brighton	16	8	3	5	24	16	27
Bournemouth	16	7	6	3	23	17	27
Port Vale	16	8	3	5	24	22	27
Barnsley	15	7	5	3	19	17	26
QPR	15	6	7	2	25	12	25
Hartlepool	16	6	7	3	28	20	25
Colchester	16	7	4	5	20	20	25
Wrexham	14	7	3	4	18	14	24
Sheff Wed	16	6	6	4	22	19	24
Bristol City	16	5	8	3	18	13	23
Luton	16	6	4	6	28	30	22
Grimsby	16	6	4	6	20	22	22
Swindon	16	5	6	5	23	21	21
Oldham	16	5	6	5	27	26	21
Rushden & D'monds	16	6	3	7	26	28	21
Brentford	15	6	2	7	18	23	20
Blackpool	15	5	3	7	21	26	18
Tranmere	16	4	6	6	17	25	18
Stockport	16	3	6	7	19	27	15
Peterborough	16	2	7	7	18	24	13
Notts County	16	3	4	9	15	27	13
Wycombe	16	2	5	9	19	29	11
Chesterfield	16	1	6	9	12	24	9

FIXTURES

Saturday 1st November

Birmingham	v	Charlton
Everton	v	Chelsea
Fulham	v	Liverpool
Leeds	v	Arsenal
Leicester	v	Blackburn
Man Utd	v	Portsmouth
Middlesbrough	v	Wolverhampton
Newcastle	v	Aston Villa
Southampton	v	Man City
Tottenham	v	Bolton



German Bundesliga



VFB Stuttgart extended their unbeaten run to 10 games with a 1-0 win over VfL Wolfsburg. Stuttgart pleased their fans with another victory but were made to work hard and needed a couple of crucial saves from goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand.

Substitute striker Ioannis Amanatidis hit the winner in the 74th minute.

Two goals from prolific Brazilian striker Ailton helped Werder Bremen win 4-2 at Freiburg.

French playmaker Johan Micoud and Croatian striker Ivan Klasnic also scored for the visitors, who climb a spot to third.

League leaders Bayer Leverkusen overcame second from bottom Moenchengladbach 1-0 thanks to a goal four minutes into the second half from Germany midfielder Bernd Schneider.

Georgian forward Alexander Iaschvili struck twice in the second half for Freiburg, who were 3-0 down at halftime.

Bayern Munich kept within striking distance of their title contenders with the champions running out



Wolfsburg's Stefan Schnoor (right) holds onto Stuttgart's Imre Szabics (left) during Stuttgart's 1-0 win at the Gottlieb Daimler Stadium.

4-1 winners over Kaiserslautern at the Olympic Stadium. Sebastian Deisler opened the floodgates after just

60 seconds with his cross deceiving all to rocket into the net.

The German international added his second later on while in-form Dutchman Roy Makaay also bagged a brace in Bavaria.

Kaiserslautern were 3-0 down when Germany striker Miroslav Klose scored their goal in the 78th minute, two minutes after having a penalty saved by Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Hertha Berlin eased the pressure on coach Huub Stevens with their first victory of the season, triumphing 1-0 over Hansa Rostock at the Ostseestadion.

Brazilian striker Luizao scored the decisive goal on the half hour mark with an outrageous nutmeg through ball from Fredi Bobic sending the Samba star clear to score.

Klaus Toppmoller endured a rollercoaster ride on his return to the Bundesliga after an eight month hiatus with Hamburg surrendering a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 with Schalke 04 at the AOL-Arena.

A capacity 55,500 crowd turned up for Toppmoller's first match in charge, following the mid-week sacking of Kurt Jara, and loved what they saw as Argentine international Bernardo Romeo grabbed a goal in each half to put Hamburg in control.

However Anibal Matellan's strike gave Schalke hope and Edi Glieder levelled in stoppage time to deny Toppmoller victory.

Hanover, who had lost their last three games, managed a 1-1 draw with 1860 Munich after a tense match in which each team had a player sent off.

Cameroon striker Mohammadou Idrissou put the home side ahead with a superb angled effort from inside the area in the 34th minute but the visitors levelled a minute later courtesy of Austria midfielder Markus Weissenberger.

Frankfurt recorded their first home win since returning to the top flight, 2-0, at the expense of Cologne.

Striker Nico Frommer put the home side in the lead from close range in the 63rd minute before Albania midfielder Mehmet Dragusha wrapped it up with 10 minutes remaining.

Two goals from Iran striker Vahid Hashemian and one by Nigerian striker Sunday Oliech presented Bochum with a stunning 3-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund in the Ruhr Valley derby.

Freiburg 2 Werder Bremen 4; Stuttgart 1 VfL Wolfsburg 0, Bayern Munich 4 Kaiserslautern 1, Hansa Rostock 0 Hertha Berlin 1, Hanover 1 1860 Munich 1, Hamburg 2 Schalke 2, Eintracht Frankfurt 2 Cologne 0, Leverkusen 1 Moenchengladbach 0, Bochum 3 Borussia Dortmund 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Leverkusen	10	8	1	1	23	7	25
2 Stuttgart	10	7	3	0	13	1	24
3 Bremen	10	7	1	2	26	14	22
4 Bayern	10	6	3	1	25	13	21
5 Dortmund	10	6	1	3	19	11	19
6 Bochum	10	5	3	2	19	10	18
7 Wolfsburg	10	5	0	5	20	20	15
8 1860 München	10	4	2	4	9	12	14
9 Freiburg	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
10 Hannover	10	3	3	4	18	22	12
11 Schalke	10	2	5	3	12	16	11
12 Kaiserslautern	10	4	1	5	13	16	10
13 Hamburg	10	2	3	5	9	21	9
14 Eintracht	10	2	2	6	8	14	8
15 Hertha	10	1	5	4	8	17	8
16 Köln	10	2	1	7	8	16	7
17 Moenchengladbach	10	1	3	6	6	15	6
18 Hansa	10	1	2	7	11	20	5

FIXTURES

Saturday 1st November

Wolfsburg	vs	Hertha Berlin
Kaiserslautern	vs	B.Leverkusen
M.gladbach	vs	Hansa Rostock
VfB Stuttgart	vs	Freiburg
Werder Bremen	vs	E.Frankfurt
FC Cologne	vs	Hannover
1860 Munich	vs	Bochum
B.Dortmund	vs	Hamburg SV
Schalke	vs	B.Munich



Spanish Primera Liga



Deportivo Coruna carved out a 2-1 win at home to Valencia to bring an end to the last unbeaten record in the Primera Liga and replace the 2002 champions at the top of the table.

Real Madrid took advantage of Valencia's defeat to move up to second with a 3-1 home win over Racing Santander.

While Real produced only flashes of their best form against Racing at a rainswept Bernabeu, Deportivo clinched victory over Valencia with arguably their best performance of the season.

Juan Carlos Valeron hooked in their opener from close range after 14 minutes, the first goal Valencia had conceded in the league since opening-day.

Valencia hit back with a Mista strike after 74 minutes but Diego Tristan crashed in a free kick five minutes later to give Deportivo the points.

Real were second best to Racing for most of the game but clinched a home win thanks to a magnificent Zinedine Zidane volley and two late goals from Raul.



Deportivo's Argentine player Aldo Pedro Duscher (right) tries to control the ball under pressure from Valencia's Ruben Baraja in the top of the table clash in Coruna.

Israeli striker Yossi Benayoun gave Racing a deserved lead in the 16th minute, firing in on the turn after Fernando Moran had created the opening.

Racing were in control of the game but failed to take their chances and paid the price in the 27th minute when Zidane smacked in a Ronaldo cross.

Racing continued to play the better football but they were hit twice on the break in the last 12 minutes by Raul.

Malaga survived a late fightback from Zaragoza to claim a 2-1 home victory, their third win of the season.

A near-post header from Litos in the 28th minute and a Salva Ballesta penalty in the final minute of the first half gave the home side a comfortable lead at the

break. Zaragoza hardly created a chance in the second period before Goran Drulic pulled one back two minutes from time.

Espanyol remain rooted to the bottom of the Spanish first division - without a win in eight games this season and just two points to their name, following a 0-4 home loss to Celta Vigo.

The misery started early for Espanyol with Celta's French midfielder Peter Luccin scoring from the spot on 15 minutes before Pierre Wome was sent off for a brutal challenge on Juanfran Garcia right before half time.

Former Espanyol player Savo Milosevic, who moved to Celta in the summer, looked almost embarrassed getting the visitors' second strike after 58 min-

utes and didn't celebrate his goal.

Albacete joined Espanyol in the relegation zone after their 3-2 loss at Real Betis, who move up to fifth.

Mikel Aguirre headed Albacete ahead after just 11 minutes but two goals in four minutes from Tote Lopez and Fernando Fernandez, just before the break, restored their home side's advantage at a crucial moment.

Betis then went further ahead through Jesus Capitan after 51 minutes before holding on for maximum points despite Libero Parri pulling one back for Albacete.

Barcelona beat Real Mallorca 3-1 to claim their first win in five attempts.

Barca took the lead away to Mallorca with a Javier Saviola strike that just crossed the line after nine minutes.

Ronaldinho fired in a free-kick after 23 minutes and Philip Cocu headed in the third early in the second half before a consolation goal to Fernando Correa four minutes from time.

Real Sociedad got back on track with a valuable 1-0 win at home to Osasuna, Darko Kovacevic heading home for their first league win since September 20.

Two goals in each half from Jose Chema and Ariza Makukula gave Valladolid a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao while Sonny Anderson bagged a brace in Villarreal's 3-3 draw with Sevilla.

FIXTURES

Sunday 2nd November

Mallorca	vs	Valencia
Murcia	vs	Deportivo
R Sociedad	vs	Barcelona
Betis	vs	Atletico
Villarreal	vs	Osasuna
Valladolid	vs	Albacete
Malaga	vs	Sevilla
R Madrid	vs	Athletic
Espanyol	vs	Zaragoza
Celta	vs	Racing

Deportivo Coruna 2 Valencia 1, Malaga 2 Real Zaragoza 1, Real Madrid 3 Racing Santander 1, Espanyol 0 Celta Vigo 4, Real Betis 3 Albacete 2, Mallorca 1 Barcelona 3, Real Sociedad 1 Osasuna 0, Valladolid 2 Bilbao 0, Villarreal 3 Sevilla 3, Murcia 1 Atletico Madrid 3.



Dutch Eredivisie

Ten-man Ajax Amsterdam held on to top spot in the first division after a hard-fought 2-2 draw at PSV Eindhoven in which their captain Rafael van der Vaart was sent off just before halftime for violent conduct.

All the goals came in the second half with PSV captain Mark van Bommel opening the scoring before Ajax striker Wesley Sonck equalised. John de Jong restored PSV's lead but Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic salvaged a draw for the visitors.

Feyenoord kept in touch with the leaders after grabbing the winner at home to Tilburg three minutes into injury time when Brazilian Leonardo capped a superb solo run by setting up Thomas Buffel who beat goalkeeper Geert de Vlieger.

Antony Lurling had put Feyenoord ahead in the 31st minute but they could not finish off the plucky visitors, who made the most of their first clear chance on 88 minutes when James Quinn capitalised on a defensive error to equalise from close range.

Twente Enschede left it late at home to Utrecht as goals from Kim Christensen (74) and Adil Ranzai (86) salvaged a draw after a double from Hans van der Haar had given the struggling visitors hope of a victory.

AZ Alkmaar thrashed bottom team Zwolle, Ali Elkhatabi got the rout underway with a strike in the fourth minute and then goals late in the first half from Kenneth Perez and Stein Huysegems put them in control.

The half-time team talk in the Zwolle changing room didn't help the visitors, because Barry van Galen scored almost immediately after the restart for the last goal in a 4-0 win.

High-flying Heerenveen saw their perfect home record come to a crashing halt after suffering a shock 2-1 home defeat to NEC Nijmegen.

Dennis De Nooijer put the visitors ahead two minutes before half-time and Youssouf Hersi doubled their advantage after 62 minutes.

Georgios Samaras scored five minutes from time to set up an exciting finish, but NEC's defence held firm to register a vital success.

Substitute Esad Razić fired in a 71st minute winner as RBC Roosendaal

edged RKC Waalwijk at the Olympia/Mandemakers stadium. Said Boutabar put the home side in front with a goal six minutes before half-time but Sidney Lammens equalised 10 minutes after the break and then Razić struck with the winner.

Rob Penders struck a last-gasp equaliser for NAC Breda to deny struggling ADO Den Haag what would have been a crucial win.

Gijs Cales' 20th minute goal looked like giving the capital club their third victory of the campaign.

But just when it appeared that hope had gone for Breda, Penders netted in the 90th minute to rescue a point for his team.

Two goals in the last five minutes turned Groningen's match with Vitesse Arnhem on its head to give the hosts a dramatic victory.

Martin Drent netted an 88th-minute winner to send the home fans wild



Barry van Galen: Scorer of AZ Alkmaar's fourth goal against Zwolle.

after Arvid Smit had equalised three minutes earlier.

Didier Martel had pounced in the 63rd minute to put the visitors ahead and his goal looked like condemning the home side to their fifth defeat of the campaign until the late, late fightback that keeps Vitesse firmly in the relegation zone.

Volendam won 2-1 at home to Roda JC.

PSV Eindhoven 2 Ajax Amsterdam 2, Den Haag 1 NAC Breda 1, AZ Alkmaar 4 Zwolle 0, Groningen 2 Vitesse 1, Heerenveen 1 NEC Nijmegen 2, RKC Waalwijk 1 RBC Roosendaal 2, Volendam 2 Roda JC 1, Twente 2 Utrecht 2, Feyenoord 2 Willem II.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Ajax	9	7	1	1	26	10	22
2 Alkmaar	9	7	1	1	20	5	22
3 PSV	9	6	2	1	23	8	20
4 Feyenoord	9	5	2	2	15	10	17
5 Heerenveen	9	5	0	4	9	9	15
6 Waalwijk	9	4	1	4	14	11	13
7 Twente	9	4	1	4	18	20	13
8 Roosendaal	9	3	3	3	9	10	12
9 NEC	9	4	0	5	11	16	12
10 NAC	9	3	2	4	13	11	11
11 Roda	9	2	5	2	10	9	11
12 Groningen	9	3	2	4	10	14	11
13 Willem II	9	3	2	4	8	18	11
14 Volendam	9	2	3	4	12	17	9
15 Utrecht	9	2	3	4	9	14	9
16 Den Haag	9	2	3	4	8	14	9
17 Vitesse	9	1	3	5	13	18	6
18 Zwolle	9	0	2	7	4	18	2

GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Olympiakos maintained their position at the summit of the Hellenic National League thanks to a 1-0 away derby defeat of AEK Athens at the Nea Smirni.

Despite being reduced to ten men following the dismissal of Tassos Pantos, Olympiakos had the edge over their city rivals and a close-range strike from Ieroklis Stolidis in the 66th minute was enough to separate the sides. AEK's best chance came and went as early as the fourth minute when Kostas Katsouranis saw his shot cleared off the line.

Two points behind the leaders in second-place are Panathinaikos, who condemned Panionios to their first defeat of the season, running out convincing 3-0 winners. Dimitris Papadopoulos collected two second-half goals after Silvio Maric had opened the scoring.

PAOK climbed into the top

three on the back of a 2-1 defeat of Kallithea, taking the lead through a 26th-minute penalty from Dimitris Zavadias and doubling the advantage following a header from Dimitris Salpingidis. Kallithea pulled one back before the interval by virtue of a close-range shot from Giannis Tatsis. The rest of the action was dominated by draws. Fourth-placed Egaleo were held 0-0 away against mid-table Paniliakos while Iraklis drew 1-1 with Halkidona, going ahead in the 52nd minute after a long-range shot from Kostas Nebegleras but only taking a share of the spoils after Giannis Katemis levelled. Both teams finished the match with ten men.

The Ionikos-Aris Thessaloniki and Proodeftiki-Xanthi encounters also ended in 1-1 draws but OFI Crete were good for a win, edging out Akraitos thanks to Alesandro Soares' powerfully hit strike in added time.



Olympiakos players celebrate their hard fought one-nil victory over rivals AEK Athens.

AEK Athens 0 Olympiakos 1, Akraitos 0 OFI Crete 1, Iraklis 1 Chalkidona 1, Ionikos 1 Aris 1, Proodeftiki 1 Xanthi 1, PAOK 2 Kallithea 1, Panathinaikos 3 Panionios 0, Paniliakos 0 Egaleo Athens 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	8	7	0	1	20	3	21
2. Panathinaikos	8	6	1	1	16	6	19
3. PAOK	8	5	2	1	14	6	17
4. Egaleo	8	5	1	2	9	4	16
5. Panionios	8	3	4	1	12	11	13
6. AEK	8	3	3	2	13	10	12
7. Halkidona	8	3	3	2	12	12	12
8. OFI	8	3	1	4	9	17	10
9. Iraklis	8	2	3	3	10	9	9
10. Paniliakos	8	2	3	3	12	12	9
11. Aris	8	2	2	4	9	12	8
12. Proodeftiki	8	1	4	3	5	11	7
13. Kallithea	8	1	3	4	12	14	6
14. Xanthi	8	1	3	4	7	11	6
15. Akraitos	8	1	2	5	5	17	5
16. Ionikos	8	1	1	6	6	16	4

Scottish Premier League

Celtic pulled five points clear at the top of a Scottish Premiership table after brushing aside Aberdeen 4-0 with arch-rivals Rangers only scraping a 0-0 draw at Livingston.

The green and white half of Glasgow had Henrik Larsson to thank, as the Swedish striker unleashed a hat-trick.

Larsson opened the scoring in the fourth minute before adding a second 22 minutes later.

Chris Sutton then hit a penalty after John Hartson had been felled by Russell Anderson on the stroke of half-time, and 10 minutes after the break, Larsson grabbed his third.

In contrast, Rangers' miserable week, marred by a Champions League loss to Manchester United, got worse as they missed a chance to close the gap on Celtic with their early kick-off.

The draw means Rangers fans have now endured a run of five winless games, a sequence not previously suffered since October 2000 when then-manager Dick Advocaat was heading for the exit. Yet it could have been worse for the reigning champions had goalkeeper Stefan Klos not saved a 21st-minute penalty from Livingston's Lee Makel.

The key moment came after 20

minutes as Fernando Ricksen brought Dunfermline's Jamie McAllister down in the box.

Makel was the man entrusted with the spot-kick but Klos once again demonstrated his immense value to a shaky Rangers side by guessing correctly and diving to his left to palm away the penalty.

Hearts crushed embattled Partick 4-1 away, leaving the bottom side stuck on just two points after 10 games of the season.

Andy Kirk scored twice in his first start of the season.

The Northern Ireland international taking just 13 minutes to get his name on the scoresheet before Mark de Vries hit the second 14 minutes later.

Kirk bagged his second on the half-hour before substitute Ricky Waddell hauled a goal back for the Partick in the 63rd minute, but Hearts' sub Stephen Simmons clinched the points 16 minutes before the end.

Mid-table Hibernian defeated Kilmarnock 3-1 at home. First half goals from Colin Murdock and Derek Riordan gave the home side a well-deserved 2-0 half-time lead. But, after the interval, they sat back and allowed the visitors to come at them and there was no surprise when Kilmarnock reduced the deficit through substitute Colin Nish with 10 minutes left.

However, a late strike by Garry O'Connor secured the points for the home side for what was a welcome three points.

Dundee United and Dundee shared the spoils in the first Tayside derby of the season in a thrilling 1-1 draw at Tannadice. A 19th minute penalty by Nacho Novo, after he had been needlessly tugged to the ground inside the box by United defender David McCracken, had given the visitors a well deserved half-time lead. However, United rallied after the break to equalise through a fine Jim McIntyre header and dominated the second period but just could not get the winner.



Celtic's Henrik Larsson celebrates yet another Scottish Premier League hat-trick, this one coming against Aberdeen.

Celtic 4 Aberdeen 0, Hibernian 3 Kilmarnock 1, Livingston 0 Rangers 0, Partick Thistle 1 Hearts 4, Dundee United 1 Dundee 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Celtic	10	9	1	0	28	3	28
2 Rangers	10	7	2	1	27	8	23
3 Hearts	10	5	2	3	15	14	17
4 Dundee	10	4	3	3	13	11	15
5 Hibernian	10	4	2	4	11	14	14
6 Livingston	10	3	4	3	10	10	13
7 Motherwell	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
8 Dunfermline	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
9 Kilmarnock	10	3	2	5	12	20	11
10 Dundee United	10	2	3	5	7	17	9
11 Aberdeen	10	2	1	7	9	20	7
12 Partick	10	0	2	8	8	19	2



French Ligue 1

Monaco went back to the top of France's Ligue 1 by the narrowest of margins after drawing 1-1 at Sochaux. Fernando Morientes gave Monaco a half-time lead with his first league goal since moving from Real Madrid, a superb flicked header into the top corner in the 22nd minute. Sochaux equalised with an equally fine header by Pierre-Alain Frau midway through the second half.

Marseille buried the nightmare of last week's Ligue 1 savaging following an uninspired 2-0 win at home against Rennes.

A colourless first half in their Velodrome stadium was marked by confusion in the midfield before Daniel Van Buyten claimed the first goal just before the half-time whistle with substitute Didier Drogba sealing victory after 77 minutes with his seventh goal of the season.

Brazilian midfield star Juninho got French champions Lyon back to winning ways with his third goal of the campaign which ended the unbeaten home record of Nantes.

Nantes came out firing on all cylinders with Lyon keeper Gregory Coupet doing well to keep out shots from Nantes striker Gregory Pujol and midfielder Frederic Da Rocha in the first fifteen minutes.

Coupet kept out another attempt by Da Rocha after 26 minutes, with a shot by midfielder Mathieu Berson cleared by Lyon central defender Edmilson six minutes later.

Lyon finished the first half with more energy, and kept up the pressure after the break with midfielder Florent Malouda feeding Juninho who fired in the winner from the right after 67 minutes to give Lyon just their third win in 33 visits to Nantes.

After back-to-back draws at home against Sochaux in the French league and Bayern Munich in the Champions League, Lyon showed they are in the running to defend their title, with Nantes now sitting in fifth position after their first loss at home this season.

Strasbourg meanwhile were quickly brought back down to earth following last weekend's hammering of Marseille with goals in either half from striker Toifilou Maoulida giving neighbouring Metz a 2-0 win.

Montpellier also scored an away win a 1-0 reversal of struggling Burgundy outfit Auxerre.

A goal from Jean-Christophe Rouviere four minutes before the break gave Montpellier the lead and, despite concerted pres-



Marseille's Didier Drogba reacts after scoring the opening goal in a 2-0 win over Rennes

sure from their opponents, the visitors held on for the win.

Two late strikes gave Lens a 2-1 victory in their northern derby with Lille ending their run of three straight losses, with Lille still searching for their first win since August 16.

That's when John Utaka converted an equaliser, and the impressive Dagui Bakari then netted what proved to be the winner two minutes later to complete a dramatic turnaround.

Guingamp also stopped the rot with a 1-0 home win against newly-promoted Toulouse courtesy of a Milovan Sikimic strike in the 64th minute.

Fourth placed Paris SG had to settle for a 0-0 stalemate at Ajaccio while Bordeaux and Nice also failed to trouble the scoresheet.

Bastia was held to a 1-1 draw at bottom table Le Mans, who remain winless this season.

Sochaux 1 Monaco 1, Nantes 0 Lyon 1, Marseille 2 Rennes 0, AC Ajaccio 0 Paris-St Germain 0, AJ Auxerre 0 Montpellier 1, En Avant Guingamp 1 Toulouse 0, Le Mans 1 Bastia 1, RC Lens 2 Lille 1, Nice 0 Bordeaux 0, Racing Strasbourg 0 Metz 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Monaco	11	7	3	1	20	10	24
2 Marseille	11	8	0	3	19	9	24
3 Lyon	11	6	3	2	18	8	21
4 PSG	11	6	2	3	16	10	20
5 Nantes	11	6	1	4	12	7	19
6 Strasbourg	11	5	2	4	16	13	17
7 Nice	11	4	5	2	10	7	17
8 Bastia	11	5	2	4	15	15	17
9 Lens	11	5	1	5	8	15	16
10 Sochaux	11	4	3	4	13	12	15
11 Montpellier	11	4	3	4	13	13	15
12 Auxerre	11	4	2	5	15	13	14
13 Metz	11	4	2	5	11	10	14
14 Rennes	11	3	4	4	8	8	13
15 Lille	11	3	4	4	10	12	13
16 Bordeaux	11	3	3	5	8	10	12
17 Ajaccio	11	3	3	5	10	14	12
18 Toulouse	11	2	3	6	7	16	9
19 Guingamp	11	2	2	7	8	17	8
20 Mans	11	0	4	7	3	21	4

Romanian First Division

Defending champions Rapid Bucharest beat Dinamo Bucharest 4-3 away in the best match so far in the Romanian league season to pull level with them and leaders Steaua.

The three teams are on 19 points with unbeaten Steaua Bucharest, who brilliantly crushed Gloria Bistrita 4-1, top with a match in hand and Dinamo second on goal difference. Promoted Apulum Alba Iulia, the revelation of the season, are fourth one point behind.

Rapid and Dinamo offered an exciting derby with fine goals and a string of wasted chances from both sides.

Dinamo twice fought back brilliantly from 2-0 down after 13 minutes and 4-1 down after an hour.

Rapid striker Daniel Niculae opened the scoring from the edge of the box after a splendid 40-metre cross from Moroccan midfielder Noureddine Ziyati four minutes into the game. His strike partner Sabin Ilie stunned the 16,000-strong Dinamo crowd when he increased Rapid's lead. Ziyati, the first foreigner to captain a Romanian side, was again the perfect provider. Substitute midfielder Stefan Grigorie put Dinamo back into the game in the six minutes before half-time, two minutes after coming on, when he was set up by Florentin Petre's fine solo run. Central defender Adrian Ionescu restored Rapid's two-goal lead when he found the net after a mistake by the Dinamo defence in the 56th minute and Marius Malarasanu added the fourth four minutes later.

Dinamo, however, hit back immediately with goals from Claudiu Niculescu and central defender Cosmin Barcan 14 minutes from time but it was not enough to steal a point.

Elsewhere on Sunday, a last-minute goal from central defender Angelo Alistar gave Ceahlautu Piatra Neamt a 1-0

win against FCM Bacau - their first victory in six matches - to lift them off the bottom of the standings.

They were replaced at the foot of the table by Oradea, who could only draw 0-0 at home against National Bucharest.

Ceahlaul 1 Bacau 0, Bihor 0 National 0, Dinamo Bucharest 3 Rapid Bucharest 4, Politehnica 0 Farul 0, Apulum 2 Universitatea 2, Arges 0 Otetul 0, Steaua Bucharest 4 Gloria 1, Petrolul 5 Brasov 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	9	5	4	0	15	3	19
Rapid	10	5	4	1	18	11	19
Dinamo	10	6	1	3	24	16	19
Apulum	10	5	3	2	12	14	18
Gloria	10	4	2	4	15	18	14
Otetul	10	3	4	3	10	9	13
Arges	10	3	4	3	14	11	13
National	10	3	3	4	13	16	12
Brasov	10	3	2	5	17	21	11
Universitatea	10	2	5	3	10	12	11
Ceahlaul	10	3	2	5	13	16	11
Farul	10	2	4	4	13	15	10
Petrolul	10	2	4	4	12	12	10
Bacau	10	2	4	4	14	21	10
Politehnica	10	1	7	2	5	9	10
Bihor	9	2	3	4	10	11	9



FIFA WORLD RANKING

1 Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51 Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2 France	814	2	0	2	0	52 Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3 Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53 New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4 Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54 Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5 Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55 Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6 Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	55 Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7 Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	55 Austria	544	61	8	54	-1
8 England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58 Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9 United States	717	10	1	10	1	59 Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10 Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	59 Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11 Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61 Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
11 Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62 Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13 Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63 Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14 Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64 Iraq	531	56	-8	53	-11
15 Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65 Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16 Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	65 Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17 Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67 Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18 Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68 Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
18 Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69 Ghana	513	67	-2	60	-9
20 Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70 Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21 Romania	652	27	6	24	3	70 China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22 Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72 Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23 Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73 Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24 Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74 Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
24 Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75 Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26 Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76 Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27 Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77 Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28 Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78 Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29 Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79 Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30 Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80 Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31 Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81 Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
31 Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82 Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33 South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83 Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
33 Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84 Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
33 Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85 El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36 Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86 Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37 Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	86 Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38 Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88 Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39 Egypt	606	44	5	39	0	89 Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40 Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90 Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41 Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91 Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42 Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	91 Libya	455	97	6	104	13
42 Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93 Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44 Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94 Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45 Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95 United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46 Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	95 Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47 Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	95 Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48 Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98 Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49 Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99 Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50 Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100 Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

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John Kosmina's men secured a 1-0 victory over his old squad.